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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Ukraine-Russia Talks on START I Implementation Begin *[INTERFAX]* 1
Kravchuk on Solution *[INTERFAX]* 1
Compensation for Ukraine Discussed *[INTERFAX]* 1
NATO Head: U.S. Should Guarantee Ukraine's Security *[Kiev TV]* 1
Otchizna Parliamentary Group Discusses START II *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
FIS Report Analyzes Nuclear, CBW Proliferation Risk *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 2

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Minsk Documents on Leaders' 'Attitudes' Published *[INTERFAX]* 3
PRAVDA Sums Up Minsk Summit Results *[26 Jan]* 3
Summit Strengthens Ukraine's Position in CIS *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 Jan]* 5
Summit Made 'Little Progress' in Banking Sphere *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 6
Russian Official Outlines Activities of CIS Assembly *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Jan]* 7
Nazarbayev To Attend Assembly of Industrialists *[INTERFAX]* 8
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 Jan 8

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Commentary Says Summit With U.S. To Help Stabilize World *[Moscow International]* 10
Clinton Appoints Thomas Pickering as Russian Ambassador *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
FIS Delegation Head on Results of U.S. Visit *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 27 Jan]* 10
Yeltsin Departs for 'Official State Visit' to India *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
To Focus on India's USSR Debt *[INTERFAX]* 11
Indian Minister Says Talks With Russia To Boost Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Spokesman Says Russia Plans To Boost Ties With India *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Yeltsin Sends Greetings to Indian Leaders *[Moscow International]* 13
Indian Prime Minister on Yeltsin, CIS *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
Kozyrev Discusses START II, Yugoslavia, Others *[INTERFAX]* 14
Discusses UN, Iraq Policy *[INTERFAX]* 14
Outlines Foreign Policy Priorities *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
Yeltsin Signs Directive To Step Up Work With Iraq *[INTERFAX]* 16
Foreign Ministry Denounces 'Saboteurs' Sent To Iraq *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
'Volunteers' Said To Damage Russia's Prestige *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 16
Article Deplores Government Inaction *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 26 Jan]* 17
Rutskoy Views Using Veto To Halt Actions Against Iraq *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 17
Ministry Official Denies 'Dual Standards' on Iraq *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 24 Jan]* 18
Experts Discuss Saddam Husayn's Latest Actions *[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI 24 Jan]* 19
Official Views Moscow's Role in International Arena *[INTERFAX]* 19
Official on 'Balanced Influence' Policy Toward Yugoslavia *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Churkin Views Relations With Macedonia, Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 20
Opposition Criticizes Moscow's Policies on Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 20
NATO General Leads Delegation on Moscow Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Kozyrev Said To Ask Japan To Ease Pressure Over Kurils *[Tokyo KYODO]* 21
Commentary Says Israel Must Comply With UN Resolutions *[Moscow International]* 21
Official Vows To Keep Arms Exports Up to 1992 Level *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 Jan]* 22
State of Russian-Ukrainian Relations Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Jan]* 22
Treaty on Mutual Legal Aid Signed With Estonia *[INTERFAX]* 24

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Forms Unit To Oversee Ministries *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 27 Jan]* 25
Chernomyrdin To Reshuffle Team of Advisers *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 27 Jan]* 25
Chernomyrdin Changes Style of Cabinet Meetings *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 27 Jan]* 25
Cabinet's Upcoming Plans, Sessions, Reports Listed *[INTERFAX]* 25
Cabinet's 25 Jan 'Working Conference' Reported *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Jan]* 26
Yeltsin Appoints Rutskoy Head of Crime Committee *[Moscow Radio]* 26
New Commission To Coordinate All Foreign Policy Matters *[INTERFAX]* 26

Media Issues

Chairman Comments on Yeltsin's State TV Company Edict *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 26 Jan]* . 27
Commentary Regrets Change in Russian TV Status *[Radio Rossii]* 27
Yeltsin's TV Edict 'Bad for Everyone' *[IZVESTIYA 23 Jan]* 28
Minister Views Communications' Role in Economic Growth *[Russian TV]* 29
Appointments to, Statutes of Federal Information Center 30
Yushenkov Named Deputy Leader *[INTERFAX]* 30
Volodin Named Deputy Head *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Terms Set for Personnel *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Jan]* 30
FIC Statute Published *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Jan]* 30

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Approves Agricultural Subsidies *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Some Aims of Economic Program Hard To Achieve *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 32
Privatization Revenues for '92 Twice as High as Planned *[INTERFAX]* 33
Provisions of Draft Economic Recovery Plan Outlined *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 26 Jan]* 33
Chubays: No Changes in 1993 Privatization Plans *[ITAR-TASS]* 33

Referendum & Other Issues

Opinion Poll Tests Attitudes Toward Referendum *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 34
Gorbachev, Rutskoy, Khasbulatov To Testify in Coup Trial *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Yeltsin May Be Called as Witness *[ITAR-TASS]* 35

Supreme Soviet

Some Yeltsin Amendments to Army Law Rejected *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Jan]* 35
Air Defense Chief Gives Briefing on Service's Problems *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Jan]* 36

Regional Affairs

Chechen Prepares for 'Major' Military Exercises *[INTERFAX]* 37
Russian Troops in Control of North Ossetia, Ingushetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Chechen State Delegation Arrives in Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 37
First Results Said Reassuring *[INTERFAX]* 38
Chechen's Dudayev Returns Home From Turkey *[INTERFAX]* 38
Moscow Mayor Holds News Conference on Year's Results *[Moscow TV]* 38
Moscow Mayor, Chernomyrdin Discuss City Budget *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Moscow Communists on RSFSR Communist Party Revival *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 26 Jan]* .. 39
Tatarstan Wants Treaty With Russia Before Referendum *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Presidents Clinton, Kravchuk Discuss Bilateral Relations *[Kiev TV]* 40
Legislature, Commissions Discuss Adoption of START

[UKRAINIAN BUSINESS NEWS 20 Jan] 40
Guests Searched at U.S. Embassy Inauguration Party *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 23 Jan]* 41
Russians Apologize for Attack on Ukrainian Facility *[IZVESTIYA 23 Jan]* 41
Russian Ambassador Meets Sevastopol Leaders *[ITAR-TASS]* 42
Kravchuk Urges Developing Aviation Industry *[Kiev TV]* 42
Further on Aviation *[INTERFAX]* 42

National Affairs

Supreme Council Discusses Economic Issues 26 Jan 43
Pynzenyk on Economic Program *[Kiev International]* 43
New Bank Chairman Comments *[INTERFAX]* 43
Proceedings Detailed *[Kiev International]* 43
Plan for 1993 Approved *[INTERFAX]* 44
Cabinet of Ministers Discusses Economic Tasks *[Kiev TV]* 44

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich Interviewed on Internal Issues *[INTERFAX]* 45
Officials Promote Business Contacts With Germany *[ITAR-TASS]* 46

Moldova

Anti-Snegur Protests Staged at Parliament Building *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 46
Parliamentary Vice Chairman on 'Political Crisis' *[INTERFAX]* 47
Pro-Romanian Movement Delays Referendum on Independence *[INTERFAX]* 47
Gagauz Opposition Calls For Autonomous Economic Region *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 47
U.S. To Grant Aid for Drought Relief *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Poll Shows Growing Dissatisfaction in Moldova *[ITAR-TASS]* 48

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Explains Economic Policy Changes *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 49
Nazarbayev Interviewed on Minsk Summit, Key Issues *[Moscow Radio]* 50

Kyrgyzstan

President Calls For Mobilization Against Crime, Corruption *[INTERFAX]* 51
Worried About Corruption, Economy *[Moscow Radio]* 51

Tajikistan

Border Guards on Alert for 'Major Armed Provocations' *[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]* 52
Ramit Gorge Disarmament Operation Continues *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Ambassador *[Dushanbe Radio]* 52
Ambassador on U.S. Plans for Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* 52
CIS Delegation Helping To Form Defense Ministry *[INTERFAX]* 53
UN Mission Guarantees Impartiality of Peacekeeping Forces *[INTERFAX]* 53
Official Denies Rumors of Pamir Residents' Persecution *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Afghan President Urges Solution to Refugee Problem *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Refugees Return Home From Afghanistan *[INTERFAX]* 53

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Discusses Outcome of Minsk Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 54
Tajik Parliament Speaker Arrives for Official Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Agreements Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 54

Afghan General Meets With Niyazov *[INTERFAX]* 54

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Spokesman: Russia Wants 'Partner,' Not 'Small Brother' *[SNARK]* 55
Radio Link Between Yerevan, Border Areas Set Up *[Yerevan Radio]* 55

Azerbaijan

Prime Minister Guseynov Resigns; Replaced by Masimov *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Resignation Due To 'Negative Attitude' *[Moscow Radio]* 55
Press Secretary Backs Iraqi Adherence to UN Resolutions *[SNARK]* 55
Presidential Adviser Not Optimistic on Future of CIS *[INTERFAX]* 56
Ministry Denies Intention To Obtain, Use Chemicals *[AZERTAC]* 56
Government Denies Involvement in Pipeline Blast *[AZERTAC]* 56
Armenian Forces' Withdrawal From Shusha, Lachin Demanded *[INTERFAX]* 57
Seven Die in Armenian Shelling of Agadam 26 Jan *[INTERFAX]* 57
'Significant' Armenian Losses in Fizulinskiy *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
President Imposes State of Emergency in Kazakhskiy Rayon *[Baku Radio]* 57
Emergency Declared in Kubatlinskiy *[Moscow Radio]* 58
Government Coalition With Former Leaders Proposed *[TURAN]* 58
National Assembly Approves Denationalization Plan *[TURAN]* 58

Georgia

Russian Border Troops To Remain Until End of 1994 *[INTERFAX]* 58
Russian Delegates 'Satisfied' With Tbilisi Talks *[INTERFAX]* 59
Abkhazia's Ardzinba Demands Release of Detained Passengers *[ITAR-TASS]* 59
Tkvarcheli Inhabitants Decline Russian Humanitarian Aid *[INTERFAX]* 59
Abkhaz Leader Apologizes for Aid Mission Interruption *[Radio Rossii]* 60
First Round of South Ossetia Talks Viewed Positively *[ITAR-TASS]* 60
Unification With North Sought *[INTERFAX]* 60
Friendship, Cooperation Treaty With Iran Published *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 21 Jan]* ... 60

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

President, Foreign Minister Begin Visit to France *[BALTFAX]* 63
Signs Friendship Agreement *[BALTFAX]* 63
Minister Says West Should Help Republic Defend Itself *[BALTFAX]* 63
Agreement Signed With Russia on Legal Aid *[Tallinn Radio]* 63
Russian Envoy Says Elections Not Democratic *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 64
CSCE Mission To Resolve Problems of Russian Population *[INTERFAX]* 64
Economics Minister Resigns, Cites Health Reasons *[BALTFAX]* 64
Government Sets Up Commercial Bank, Issues Bonds *[BNS BALTIC BUSINESS WEEKLY]* 64

Latvia

French Defense Minister Arrives on 2 Day Visit *[Riga Radio]* 65
Questions Russian Army Presence *[Riga Radio]* 65
Discusses Issues With Baltic Ministers *[Riga Radio]* 65
Parliamentary Factions Meet To Discuss Talks With Russia *[BALTFAX]* 65
Tab for Russian Troops' Stay Equals Latvian Gas Debt *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Jan]* 66
Changes in Latvian Cabinet Reported *[IZVESTIYA 27 Jan]* 66
Navy Monitoring Shipping Movements in Riga Harbor *[Riga Radio]* 66

Lithuania

Landsbergis on Latvian-Russian Army Negotiations *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 66
'Scandal' Involving Russian Troops Reported *[ITAR-TASS]* 67
Russian Envoy Summoned to Ministry of Foreign Affairs *[BALTFAX]* 67
Acting President Calls on Israel for Cooperation *[BALTFAX]* 67
Biography of Presidential Candidate Stasys Lozoraitis *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 67
Biography of Brazauskas *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 68
Union of Poles Backs Brazausakas for President *[Warsaw PAP]* 68
Parliament Adopts Decree on Presidential Duties *[BALTFAX]* 68
Over 3,000 State-Run Enterprises Privatized *[BNS BALTIC BUSINESS WEEKLY]* 69

Ukraine-Russia Talks on START I Implementation Begin

OW2601163493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first round of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations devoted to issues concerning the implemention of the START-1 Treaty and the Lisbon Protocol started on Tuesday [26 January] in Kiev.

Yuriy Dubinin, Ambassador at Large, heads the group of Russian experts. Vitaliy Konovalov, first deputy Atomic Energy Minister, and Vyacheslav Zharkov, the chief of the Disarmament Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, are participating at the negotiations representing the Russian party. Yuriy Kostenko, the Environmental Protection Minister, heads the Ukrainian delegation; Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, deputy Defense Minister, and Valeriy Pavlyukov, deputy of the Machine Building, Defense Complex, and Conversion Ministry, are part of the Ukrainian delegation.

The parties agreed not to make any press releases until negotiations are completed.

Meanwhile the press center of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reported to Interfax that the participants of the two-day negotiations will focus their attention on mechanisms to implement the START-1 Treaty, in particular, the issues concerning re-deployment of the missiles destined for destruction to Russia and the further usage of fissile materials from the dismantled warheads.

Kravchuk on Solution

OW2601204393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2020 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Responding to an Interfax question during his meeting with journalists on Tuesday in Kiev due to the beginning of the first round of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on strategic nuclear forces, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk declared that the political solution of the issues concerning strategic nuclear forces "should be based on a literate technical and legal approach."

"Those who will participate in the negotiations should put forward proposals and understand the essence of the issue," he pointed out. According to Kravchuk, "The essence of the issues is not only in the necessity to develop agreements (of Ukraine) with Russia on servicing, maintenance, and dismantlement of weapons and on other problems connected with the strategic forces."

Appearing at an expanded session of the scientific council of the Aviation scientific-technical complex named after Antonov, the Ukrainian leader noted that Kiev without any doubt "will put its signature under those economic, scientific, and technical agreements which will bring good to the states and peoples of the former USSR." "Agreements in [the] political sphere without [an] economic foundation will be fruitless because political passions in Ukraine will not allow to agree on political integration," Kravchuk noted. "But we should reach an agreement on economic integration."

Compensation for Ukraine Discussed

OW2601205893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2021 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [25 January], the Russian-Ukrainian nuclear arms talks, which are currently held in Kiev, were focusing on the problem of compensation to Ukraine for the withdrawal of nuclear warheads from its territory, Ukrainian First Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk told Interfax. In his words, there several variants of compensation: "by uranium supplies for the Ukrainian nuclear power plants or financially."

NATO Head: U.S. Should Guarantee Ukraine's Security

LD2601211093 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner has stated that relations between NATO and Ukraine have been exemplary since the day of its independence. NATO supports Ukraine's initiatives to become a non-nuclear state, and will now, together with Ukraine, search for ways of resolving the problems, so that the country will be able to accede to the START I and START II Treaties.

Because the United States is one of the initiators of START I and START II, Ukraine should officially secure a guarantee that the United States will take upon itself the responsibility for Ukraine's security, Woerner stressed.

Otchizna Parliamentary Group Discusses START II

LD2601193793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1906 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—The signing of the START-2 treaty by Russia and the United States undoubtedly became the most remarkable event in the disarmament history, speakers at the parliamentary hearings on START-2, which were held by the Otchizna Group today, pointed out.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigoriy Berdennikov, who addressed the hearings, said the treaty does not give the United States military preponderance, guaranteeing at the same time the security of Russia and strategic stability between the nuclear superpowers. This view was supported by Defence Ministry experts. They stated that

"the ratification of the START-2 Treaty is consistent with Russia's national interests."

The ungrounded nature of the Russian side's consent to change the structure of the strategic armaments systems organisation, the inadequate study of the economic aspect of the Treaty's implementation and the unwillingness of other nuclear states to participate in the reduction of their nuclear arsenals were the key arguments aired by the opponents of the START-2 Treaty's ratification who took the floor during the discussion of reports by Foreign and Defence Ministry officials.

The results of the discussion held will underlie the analytical material designed for the committees and commissions of the Russian parliament. It will also be presented to the country's president and government.

FIS Report Analyzes Nuclear, CBW Proliferation Risk

MK2701091593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Pavel Koltsov report under the rubric "Special Services" and the general heading "Russian Intelligence Report—Freely Available; Tomorrow It Will Be Possible To Obtain It From the Hands of the FIS Leadership"]

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (FIS), and some other high-ranking FIS staffers will meet with journalists at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Press Center on Zubovskiy Boulevard on Thursday, 28 January. At the meeting an analysis report by the Russian intelligence service will be presented: "New Challenge After the Cold War: Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction." Never before has the country's intelligence service openly published its reports. According to the FIS leadership, this step is evidence of a substantive restructuring in the Russian intelligence service's system of priorities and its readiness to play a real part in resolving acute international problems.

The document is unusual in that it is based on information obtained by specific intelligence systems [spetsificheskimi sredstvami razvedki] as well as open information from Russian and foreign sources.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has obtained an account of some of the main points of the report.

The threat of proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons across the globe is seen in the report as one of the main factors capable of undermining hopes for the establishment of a just and lasting world order. The criteria used in analyzing the consequences of the danger of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are specified, countries are graded according to the possession of weapons of mass destruction—possessor countries, "threshold" countries, and "near-threshold" countries—and the methodology applied in this connection is explained. Reference material is appended to the report, containing the FIS' generalized assessments of the degree of advancement along the path of creating weapons of mass destruction attained by certain states in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The report devotes particular attention to the question of the five nuclear powers belonging to the "global club" (Britain, China, Russia, the United States, France). In the opinion of FIS experts, progress in the nuclear sphere cannot be considered the exclusive prerogative of the members of this influential club. In addition to eliminating the temptation for certain "threshold" states to join the club, the nuclear powers should, on the one hand, proceed resolutely ahead along the path of real nuclear disarmament, and on the other, increase the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for monitoring [kontrol za] the proliferation of fissionable materials and nuclear technologies with a military application.

At one time, the report says, official representatives of China, Britain, and France used to say that the "go-ahead" for them to proceed in the direction of reducing their own nuclear weapons would only come when the USSR and the United States cut their nuclear forces by 50 percent. The treaty signed in Moscow on 3 January 1993 cuts those nuclear forces by virtually two-thirds, which certainly opens up the opportunity for further reductions in nuclear potential on a multilateral rather than a bilateral basis.

In the opinion of FIS analysts, one of the most serious shortcomings in the present regime of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction is the lack of provisions, in existing international treaties, to ensure the creation of an effective mechanism for verification [verifikatsiya] of instances of the development [razrabotka] of prototypes of specific types of weapons of mass destruction and components for them. The existing prerogatives are confined solely to the monitoring of nuclear materials and facilities for their utilization, which, however, needs further improvement.

The authors of the report deem it necessary to focus attention on this, since 1995 sees the expiry of the term of operation of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the main international instrument enshrining states' commitments in the nuclear sphere today. The question of extending the treaty indefinitely will arise in this connection.

Minsk Documents on Leaders' 'Attitudes' Published

OW2601172493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

"[Text] At the request of our subscribers we publish the complete texts of the Minsk summit documents regarding the attitudes of the CIS leaders towards the CIS Charter. The second part of the documents published below is being assessed as a compromise between states which support the draft Charter as a whole and the countries which put forward serious claims to its present edition.

Resolution of the Heads of States' Council

"Heads of Commonwealth states decided:

First. To adopt the CIS Charter (applied) and to recommend it for ratification by parliaments.

Second. Until the present Charter is brought into force, the Commonwealth is functioning in accordance with the agreements reached and adopted in the framework of the CIS.

Accomplished in Minsk, on January 22, 1993, one original, in Russian."

(Signatures of all republics' leaders stand under the document, except Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine—Interfax [IF]).

Statement of Heads of States' Council

"Agreements adopted within the Commonwealth and the mechanisms developed by the CIS states allow the regulation of problems concerned with political, economic, humanitarian, and other kinds of cooperation by international legal methods.

"The Heads of the CIS member-countries believe that the Commonwealth has a necessary potential to improve its activity on the basis of existing agreements. At the same time all participants of Minsk summit declare they are resolute in proceeding with efforts to make the activity of CIS countries in economic and political spheres more effective.

The states which have and have not signed the Resolution on the CIS Charter will focus their efforts, foremost, on searching for ways out of the economic crisis and to form effective relations between economic subjects during the transition period to a market economy.

The Heads of States believe it necessary to gradually abolish the existing hindrances to developing mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

The Heads of States also believe, that relations between the CIS countries, primarily economic ones, will assist in the creation of the conditions necessary for normal cooperation between these countries.

The Resolution on the CIS Charter is open for signing by those states which are ready to do so.

Accomplished in Minsk, on January 22, 1993, existing in one original copy, in Russian; the original is being kept in the archive of the Belarusian government which has sent its attested copy to the countries which have signed the present statement."

(The Statement was signed by all Heads of State of the CIS member-countries. On behalf of Moldova, Mircea Snegur has made a correction in the second passage of the document: "Except the political sphere"—Interfax).

IF Note: "Explaining the sense of the above mentioned documents in his recent address over the TV channel 'Ostankino,' Stanislav Shushkevich, the Chairman of the Belarusian Parliament, pointed out that not a single country signed the Charter as it stands from the legal point of view. He connects the further process of this document's adoption with its ratification by the parliaments of the CIS countries. [no closing quotation marks as received]

PRAVDA Sums Up Minsk Summit Results

PM2601124593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 93 pp 1, 2

[Report by Dmitriy Valovoy, Oleg Stepanenko, and Aleksandr Chernyak: "The River Flows Both Ways. On the Results of the Minsk Meeting of Heads of CIS Countries"]

[Text] Minsk—One more meeting of Commonwealth leaders has been held. The 250 documents adopted earlier have been joined by a further 25. At the news conference held after the session of the heads of state, three of the participants—Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk, and Stanislav Shushkevich—were asked a "philosophical question": How do they assess the results of the CIS's creation and its activity over the year? The people present at once felt that they seemed to be trying to justify themselves by arguing that they were forced to adopt the Belovezhskaya Forest decisions. Shushkevich, who is usually restrained in contacts with journalists, raised his voice: "Enough of this talk claiming that the Union was broken up in Belovezhskaya Forest. It was broken up by Gorbachev, who sought to hold on to his post at any price and did not want to observe the interests of the great state!"

The acknowledgment by one of the CIS's creators that the breakup of the Union did not result from some internal contradictions of a great power but was caused by politicians is exceptionally important. Particularly if

you recall that these destroying politicians primarily include Yeltsin, who did everything possible to rout the center and its structures.

Summing up the past year's results, all three tried, in general, to prove one thing: Things would have been far worse without the abolition of the Union and the creation of the CIS, and total disaster and almost a nuclear apocalypse would inevitably have ensued. They maintained that they (we cite Shushkevich) "halted that crazy process of disintegration in time." And yet the "crazy process of disintegration" began precisely after the abolition of the USSR and the creation of the CIS in Belovezhskaya Forest. Over the year the production slump in the former Union republics stood at 15-40 percent, and inflation at 1,500-2,600 percent. The people's absolute impoverishment has attained a pace inconceivable for peacetime.

Probably just one argument by the Belovezhskaya Forest leaders sounded more or less convincing: "Never have heads of state and heads of government conferred with such respect for each other or such understanding of each other's merit. This is the chief result of the CIS," Shushkevich said. He was echoed by Kravchuk, who pointed out with satisfaction: "We are moving gradually and step by step... toward starting to respect one another."

But was it really necessary to destroy the world's greatest state in order to respect one another? U.S. [state] governors, for example, achieve mutual respect between themselves and the U.S. President not by breaking America up into sovereign states. It is, pardon us, quite absurd to take politics, on which the destinies of entire peoples depend, to the level of the sacramental question: "Do you respect me?" Is it not better to entrust top state posts to those who can be respected and who are able to respect others without testing them with a destructive universal breakup?

The Minsk meeting showed the whole dramatic nature of the situation in the CIS. Since the birth of the CIS two trends have struggled on its territory. The first is Gaydarization and Ukrainianization. This trend has broken the economic area and the ruble zone. All year this trend has been imposed on the Commonwealth with exceptional rigidity. Starting with the destruction of the interstate economic committee which had been been set up just before, of the common financial organs, the Union bank, and other structures of integration. Ending with disregard for the Belovezhskaya Forest organizers' decisions and their statement "On the Coordination of Economic Policy," in which they promised to implement coordinated reforms, to preserve the ruble zone, to conclude an interbank agreement, and to pursue an agreed policy of liberalization and citizens' social protection.

Unfortunately, those good intentions of Gaydarization and Ukrainianization have been consigned to oblivion. We do not think we should try to ascertain who was more successful in this—the Gaydarizers or the Ukrainianizers. As one of the participants in the meeting said in the lobby, it is better to look to the future.

The second trend is one of preserving the economic area and integration ties and creating a real and effective commonwealth. The president of Kazakhstan undoubtedly has the chief role here. From session to session Nursultan Nazarbayev has submitted documents prepared by him. At the Bishkek meeting last summer he proposed a package of five fundamental points. True, some of them were not adopted in full. Some very important questions like the interstate bank, the charter, and the economic coordinating council were quietly "shelved." It was these that were to be examined at the Minsk meeting.

The Commonwealth arrived there without a full complement. Of the 11 states—former Union republics—whose leaders announced that they were joining the CIS in Alma-Ata a year ago, one (Azerbaijan) has switched to observer status. Moldova, whose parliament has not ratified the treaty on the Commonwealth, has also essentially done the same. Of the nine remaining, seven have signed the basic document—the decision on the CIS Charter—albeit with reservations and amendments. These states, as Nazarbayev pointed out, must be considered the Commonwealth's integrators. The representatives of Ukraine and Turkmenistan did not append their signatures. Although they did sign the statement along with all the meeting participants: Its essence is that they remain in the CIS, which must be strengthened and improved.

How did Leonid Kravchuk argue his position? It must be said that he spoke a great deal and substantiated in detail his refusal to sign the basic document. There were several arguments. The chief argument, of which we already wrote in our previous report from Minsk, is that Ukraine is opposed to supranational structures. But how is it possible to coordinate the states' multifaceted activity by means of their internal structures alone? There has never been such a thing in the world. In the EEC, to whose experience Leonid Makarovich referred repeatedly, it is precisely supranational structures that resolve comprehensive problems of integration and coordination. The CIS Charter proposes structures after their pattern and image. To reject them would mean rejecting coordination and integration, the lack of which was one of the chief causes of the present breakdown.

The Ukrainian president's second argument: If he were convinced that adopting the charter in two or three months' time would further improve the situation, he would have done this. But, in signing the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements or the 250 documents adopted earlier, he was reasonably asked, was he convinced that they would further improve the situation in two or three months?

Third argument: The EC has taken 35 years to attain the present integration, while the CIS has been in existence just over a year, but some people are seeking to catch up with the EEC at once. And yet the EEC is working toward what is being destroyed here. For we already had integration, even though it was achieved at great expense and at too high a price. Restoring it, after it was destroyed while blinded by sovereignization, means

avoiding colossal losses. For Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, like any CIS state, can be powerful and strong only given their close integration.

And yet the Minsk meeting can, we believe, be considered a turning point in the life of the Commonwealth. Not even because the backbone of the country-integrators has finally appeared, enshrined in the charter. Something else is, we believe, more important. "We have realized that we cannot live without each other"—these words of Yeltsin's express the new mood which prevails today among the leaders of the CIS states.

After PRAVDA's first report on the day of the meeting of the states' leaders, entitled "Is Yeltsin Going to Minsk With a Sack of Cement?" one of us telephoned a high-ranking "democrat" and asked him to confirm or deny the fact cited in the report. Yes, he confirmed, Yeltsin is taking a package of important proposals to cement the Commonwealth, prepared by Burbulis. Yeltsin said at the news conference that the proposals which he had brought to Minsk were not submitted at the meeting only because of the "tight agenda" and the desire to resolve, above all, the chief question of the charter.

It is good that such a package exists. But if its author is Burbulis, this brand is not rated highly in the CIS. It is, pardon us, total crap. Evidently knowing this, Boris Yeltsin was in no hurry to make the new proposals public.

The Tashkent meeting of the leaders of the states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan undoubtedly accelerated the shift toward unification in the CIS. It gave rise to a lot of talk. The meeting of "the five," as President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan said, did not pursue the aim of creating some local formation which would work against the Commonwealth. But at the same time he reported that they reached a unanimous opinion there: If the CIS exists in such an amorphous form, this will force it to take measures for the more efficient utilization of its potential.

As we see, the amorphousness has not yet been entirely overcome. Although there are hopes that the charter will be signed in the very near future by both Ukraine and Turkmenistan, and maybe others will join the Commonwealth as well. But these are just hopes at present. It is also an alarming fact that the first trend—Gaydarization and Ukrainianization—is continuing to operate as before. And that it is leading the opposite way from the one in which the entire civilized world is moving. The Maastricht agreements clearly state: "The main principle of the monetary policy of the European Currency Fund is price stability as the most important goal." But we are destroying the economy with liberalization and privatization prescriptions, whose introduction at the very initial stage created chaos and disruption. Propaganda of sovereignization in "democratic" organs is not subsiding for a minute.

"Politicians' enlightenment"—this is what one of our colleagues called the chief result of the meeting in Minsk. We would like to believe it. But for the time being we are all living more on anxieties than on hopes, because the river is flowing both ways... How long will this unnatural demolition last, which is leading increasingly frequently to human bloodshed?

Summit Strengthens Ukraine's Position in CIS

MK2601131293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 3

[Feature comprising commentaries by Igor Sinyakevich and Vladimir Skachko: "The Seven Agree To Wait for the Two. But the Two Might Not Come"]

[Text] [Sinyakevich commentary] The crisis which the Commonwealth of Independent States is experiencing is obvious to everyone. A year after Viskul, the advocates of integration in the CIS have returned to the final formula of the Novo-Ogarevo process: "two fur hats and five embroidered skullcaps," the only difference being that the place of one of the skullcaps—Turkmenistan—is now taken by blockaded Armenia.

Just like a year ago, the participants in the talks face a choice: preserve the nucleus of the new Commonwealth and then try to bring in the other states, or throw away everything at once for the sake of fundamentally new relations. The past year has shown the second path to be a failure, and the Commonwealth will probably now develop according to the first scenario. That is what the "radical integrationalists" from the Central Asian countries urge. At the concluding press conference after the Minsk summit, Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov stated: "If the CIS is going to exist in an amorphous form such that every state seeks only its own interests, we will be forced to exploit our potential." Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, asked about the Tashkent meeting of leaders of the region's five countries, said: "I am very pleased that our meeting had a beneficial effect on today's talks." Russia is beginning to be concerned about the trend toward solidarity among the Central Asian countries and its possible loss of influence in the region. This was one of the factors affecting the relatively fruitful nature of the summit.

So the Minsk summit meeting finally identified the supporters of integration and of civilized divorce, by means of attitudes toward the CIS Charter. It is not hard to predict the future course of events. Russia will doubtless start building up cooperation within the "Seven," while independent Ukraine, Moldova, and Turkmenistan will have to undergo an endurance test. Not for nothing, on the eve of the summit, did Russia make the decision to sell oil at world prices to all states with the exception of those with which official agreements have been signed.

[Skachko commentary] Commenting on the results of the Minsk meeting, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk stated that the Commonwealth has finally grasped that the most important thing in the independent states' lives is equitable economic cooperation, not the quest for political solutions. In the Ukrainian president's opinion, this also explains why Ukraine, Turkmenistan, and

Moldova did not sign the CIS Charter at all, wile the other seven republics only initialed it and agreed to a mild version of adherence to the Charter. "It remains open. If any of the states grows mature enough to sign the Charter, it will do so. If the Charter does not grow mature, then something else could take its place. It simply takes time to say precisely whether the Charter will work or not. Ukraine did not and will not wreck the Commonwealth itself, but it will take specific steps toward integration in the economy and toward cooperation with other states," Leonid Kravchuk said.

Stating that the CIS still needs improving both economically and politically, Leonid Kravchuk noted that during its period of operation the Commonwealth has fully demonstrated that it is not a mistake, and given normal functioning, it is not, on the one hand, in conflict with the peoples' general line toward independence, and on the other, it is not the sole means of salvation from possible confrontational development, and that bilateral ties must be developed.

Thus, after the Minsk meeting, which ended in a compromise for Ukraine, it may be said that the Ukrainian leadership was able in part to satisfy the interests of everyone both within the country and elsewhere. Ukraine, on the one hand, did not sign the CIS Charter, which is what very powerful national democratic opposition forces were demanding, but on the other hand, it stayed in the CIS and ensured the signing of economic agreements, thereby meeting the expectations of the left-wing opposition and the republic's body of directors. It can also be said that Ukraine, by abandoning its artificial self-isolation and acting as initiator of the general economic agreement on cooperation and the statement of general principles of the Commonwealth's activity, has once again reinforced its position within the CIS and has even gained allies in the shape of Moldova and Turkmenistan. And if economic cooperation can be established and the economic situation stabilized in the CIS countries, it is quite possible that the need for the other Commonwealth states finally to sign the Charter would disappear entirely, and they could rally around Ukraine to oppose trends toward turning the CIS into a suprastate political structure.

Summit Made 'Little Progress' in Banking Sphere

PM2601152593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 2

[Ivan Zhagel report: "Ruble Area No Longer Exists, But Ruble Zone Does"]

[Text] It would be wrong to think that the Interstate Bank, the agreement on which was signed in Minsk last Friday [22 January], will help to resurrect the unified ruble area. The fact is that, in creating the new bank, none of the Commonwealth countries made the decision to coordinate their own national banks' credit and emissions policy with it. And the joint banking organ's potential is extremely limited.

This view was expressed by V. Solovov, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, in an interview with IZVESTIYA. The specialists' assessment largely differed from the optimistic statements from CIS leaders, who believe that in Minsk they managed to achieve major progress in coordinating credit and monetary policy. Moreover, V. Solovov noted that the Interstate Bank will not even be able to help solve the urgent problem of mutual transactions between enterprises in different republics. And the only sphere where it is capable of playing a definite, albeit not decisive, role is in organizing accounting under intergovernmental agreements on CIS territory.

Conceiving the Interstate Bank as the basis of an overall banking system, the republics made so many amendments to its original charter that they emasculated the very idea of coordinating credit and monetary policy.

"We should now be talking not about an overall ruble area, but of a zone in which the ruble is used for transactions between republics," V. Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, believes.

There is a very substantial difference between these two terms. The ruble area means that there is a common monetary unit which is issued and controlled jointly. Whereas in the second case each republic has its own monetary unit, although sometimes they bear the common name "ruble." But these rubles have differing values [ves] because of an uncoordinated credit policy. So the Interstate Bank is not proposing any agreements on this issue. It will simply make it possible to muddle through with transactions based on one of the rubles—in this case, the Russian ruble.

It might seem unimportant that everyone has different rubles, provided transactions between republics are nonetheless guaranteed. But specialists see many dangers in maintaining the existing procedure.

Thus, V. Solovov stated that the situation which has now emerged has no parallel in world practice—namely, in credit transactions a number of republics are using their own rubles, which have differing values, whereas they have the common ruble in circulation. Moreover, Russia is supplying its own cash to other states and, as follows from the Minsk agreements, agrees to continue to do so. Thus, the difference between the unified cash and noncash rubles could increase still further, which is not just absurd but also threatens to bring about major complications in relations between states.

Experts believe that there are only two ways out of this situation. The first is for all republics to actually introduce their own currencies. Then, admittedly, the problem of mutual transactions will not be made any simpler, but there will be no cause for the mutual suspicion which inevitably arises with the common cash ruble.

Many people are worried that Russia will soon do just this—take everyone by surprise by introducing its own new currency. In such an event five or six republics

would be left with a common Soviet ruble, and it would not be clear just who would issue it. Yet an agreement exists to the effect that states of the former Union will give each other at least six months' notice if they introduce their own currencies. This means that corresponding talks would have to be held before a Russian ruble appeared.

The second solution lies in the actual rather than symbolic unification of the ruble area. And this cannot be accomplished by simple declarations. We need to strictly coordinate credit, fiscal, pricing, and customs policies—which will require general administrative organs and the surrendering of a considerable amount of sovereignty.

Here is a simple example: Russia had no budget throughout last year. Even now the budget has not been ratified, incidentally. Parliament has increased the size of the budget deficit for the first quarter several times over. And yet this deficit is currently being covered solely by credit emission, posing a serious threat to all the other republics because, if they were to join together in a common ruble area, they would suffer from the money that had been pumped into the economy by Russia. This means that Russia too would have to surrender some of its sovereignty and coordinate the budget deficit, fiscal policy, and many other matters with the other republics.

An understanding of all these problems shows how little progress the CIS countries made at the Minsk summit in the sphere of coordinating credit and monetary policy.

Russian Official Outlines Activities of CIS Assembly

PM2601104393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 6

[Interview with B. Podoprigora, chairman of Supreme Soviet Committee on Questions of Interrepublic Relations, Regional Policy, and Cooperation, by V. Berezovskiy; place and date not given: "Interparliamentary Assembly: Target for Tomorrow"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The second session of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, held in St. Petersburg at the end of December, highlighted a range of problems which its participants have to resolve. B. Podoprigora, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on Questions of Interrepublic Relations, Regional Policy, and Cooperation, told our correspondent V. Berezovskiy:

[Podoprigora] The committee has wasted no time in setting about fulfilling in real earnest the instructions of the Interparliamentary Assembly. I will remind you that on 30 December the Supreme Soviet Presidium examined the question of the Russian delegation's participation in the Interparliamentary Assembly. Only 10 days later a work plan had been drawn up right through April, when the next meeting of parliamentarians will take place in the Taurida Palace.

The working groups which have been formed are aimed as far as possible at "sowing up" the gaps that have formed in the economic, lawmaking, and social spheres since the breakup of the Union. Our committee, for example, receives masses of letters from Russians in all the CIS states, particularly many from the Crimea and Central Asia, asking us to help them acquire dual or Russian citizenship. Understandably, Russia cannot resolve this unilaterally. Here, too, the mechanism of the Assembly opens up good prospects and helps to build bridges. The national parliaments have already received a model, i.e. recommended, law on citizenship, which will certainly smooth the rough edges and eliminate the tension that has built up here.

The Assembly Commission on Economics and Finances has stated its position on those economic laws of the republics which must primarily be coordinated in order to create an efficient economic area within the CIS.

It is planned to make an expert analysis of republic laws concerning former servicemen who served in Afghanistan in the very near future.

Our committee's contacts with parliamentarians of other republics convince us that we have something to think about together and to work on together.

Thus the deputies' "roundtables" in Yerevan, Baku, Minsk, and Moscow have enabled us to understand better and in more detail the drama of Karabakh and the position of Russians in nearby foreign parts. In many respects the Convention on the Protection of the Rights and Basic Freedoms of Man and Ethnic Minorities will be the fruit of these meetings. This important document is already being prepared.

A meeting of parliamentarians was held in Kiev on the initiative of Ukraine, although it does not yet participate in the Interparliamentary Assembly. Problems of cooperation between the former union republics and the EC were discussed there. It is characteristic that practically all agreed that the mechanism of the Interparliamentary Assembly could prove most opportune.

Incidentally, I would like to reply to skeptics who predict a short life for the Assembly and its degeneration into a formal, meaningless, decorative organ. In my view, the Assembly organically and naturally complements the Commonwealth Councils of Heads of State and Government. To use the language of mechanics, a system acquires stability when it rests on three points, and the Interparliamentary Assembly is precisely the third, missing support. At this high level the executive and the legislature can and must resolve with the utmost efficiency the problems that arise by using their own specific means.

In no way is the Interparliamentary Assembly a venture only of the Russian parliament or its speaker, as certain critics maintain. I would advise them to attend just once a session of the working groups and commissions in order to see for themselves the interested, ardent, and

constructive way in which parliamentarians and experts work and the sincere desire to find a common language in the new political realities.

In addition, it has long been known that it is far easier to criticize than to propose something positive. I agree that the Assembly might not be free from the characteristic shortcomings of the formative stage. But I am in no doubt that it is needed today and still more so tomorrow.

Nazarbayev To Attend Assembly of Industrialists

OW2501200493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1831 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to his staff, President Nursultan Nazarbayev is going to address a meeting of the International Assembly of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs opening in Alma-Ata at 10:00 a.m. local time on Tuesday [26 January].

The aim of the assembly, according to its organizers, in particular Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, is to contribute to the restoration of severed economic links between former Soviet republics and East European countries. The assembly has members from 20 states.

Sources close to the Kazakh government told Interfax that Nazarbayev will apparently tell the assembly his views on coordinating economic reforms on the territory of the former Soviet Union and on making the territory a single economic area. He is also expected to analyze the results of the recent CIS summit in Minsk and speak about the Kazakh cabinet's specific economic plans.

Observers think one of the main economic measures taken in Kazakhstan recently is Nazarbayev's decree of January 21 on setting up a national joint-stock company called Altynalmas with the aim of "raising the efficiency of the utilization of the gold and diamond reserves of the republic and strengthening the hard currency potential of Kazakhstan." The company is to be formed with state participation on the basis of enterprises coming under the Kazzoloto association, the Kazalmazzoloto state consortium, the Sagrin engineering factory, the Alma-Ata jewelry factory, and the Kazinalmazzoloto institute, and will be the legal successor of Kazzoloto and Kazalmazzoloto. The company's manager will be appointed by the President of Kazakhstan himself. Nazarbayev also charged the cabinet with drafting a national gold industry program for 1993-97.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 Jan

LD2701065393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0605 GMT 27 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 27 ITAR-TASS—TRUD carries today an interview with Igor Shurchkov, chairman of the state committee for industrial policy, which deals with the economic situation in Russia and the anti-crisis measures taken by the government. In his opinion, Russia has a real chance for revival: it has natural resources, skilled personnel and industrial potential. The arms- manufacturing industry and the primary processing of raw materials have good prospects on the world market.

In the opinion of Shurchkov, "the unforgivable sale of valuables under the pretext of turning over state property to other owners is taking place now." It is the best production shops and sections fitted with modern machiney, including imported one, that are being privatized. Shurchkov believes privatization should be carried out "with the national wealth of Russia remaining in the hands of state-owned companies."

All newspapers comment on a sharp drop in the rouble exchange rate at the Thursday hard currency auction in Moscow. The dollar exchange rate with regard to the rouble went up by 75 roubles to reach 568 roubles. "The upsurge of inflation expectations clearly shows that Russian businessmen do not believe in the prompt implementation of the government's anti-inflation plans," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes.

The press reports that on January 28 journalists will be given an analytical report of the Russian intelligence service. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, the report will be different from all previous ones because it will include both open information from national and foreign sources and the data "obtained by specific intelligence methods." The newspaper mentions some basic facts cited by the report, which is entitled "new challenge after the 'cold war': proliferation of mass destruction weapons." It stresses that never before has the intelligence service published its reports.

Reporting the visit of the Russian intelligence service delegation to the United States, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an interview with Lieutenant General Vadim Kirpichenko, head of the delegation. For 12 years he was first deputy head of the intelligence service and now he is head of the group of consultants to the intelligence service director. Responding to the question about the possible spheres of cooperation between the Russian intelligence service and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), General Kirpichenko said that these include the monitoring of processes connected with the proliferation of mass destruction weapons, the struggle against illegal drug trafficking, organised crime and terrorism, as well as the exchange of information on problems of mutual interest and, if need be, the exchange of experts.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Colonel General Leonid Mayorov, commander of the

Russian Army group deployed in the Baltic states. He said that 40 per cent of the troops had been withdrawn from there. Some 13,000 units of military hardware and 280,000 fire arms have been delivered to Russia. The withdrawal of the motorised infantry division deployed in Vilnius has been completed. Some 40 military townships, including equipment, class-rooms and storage facilities, were turned over to the local authorities.

PRAVDA writes that Russian Colonel Alexander Shishlyannikov, 42, has been appointed defence minister of Tajikistan. He has never served in the republic before. In the opinion of General Niyazov, permanent representative of Tajikistan in the CIS allied armed forces, "with the situation as it is today, we badly need a neutral person on this post, who has not sided with any of the warring parties during the recent confrontation."

Commentary Says Summit With U.S. To Help Stabilize World

LD2601132593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] Last Monday on 25th January Russian President Boris Yeltsin told newsmen in Moscow that he and President Bill Clinton of the United States had agreed to meet in a third country. Here's a commentary by Yuriy Solton:

The two leaders will have a lot to discuss. Traditionally two political parties have a say in shaping U.S. foreign strategy. By agreeing to meet with the Russian leader, Democrat Bill Clinton, who's taken over from Republican George Bush, confirmed continuity in the U.S. strategy for Russia. Nonetheless he may want to update his country's line in relations with Russia. The new conditions demand that the national leaders reconsider the field of application of the previous agreements between their countries.

The Bush Administration indulged somewhat too excessively in muscle-flexing on the international scene. The United States has been growing fond of diktat. And Boris Yeltsin indicated last Monday Moscow cannot accept this.

Russia has been pursuing a line of its own on the Balkans and although Moscow agrees that Baghdad should comply without attaching conditions with the UN resolutions on the Gulf problems it feels that even with Security Council permission force should be used very sparingly in relations with Iraq.

Moscow would favor political dialogue with Baghdad. Some recent statements by Bill Clinton indicate the new American Administration is inclined to agree with that.

A personal meeting of the two presidents would help their countries map out a joint approach to a solution of local conflicts. Arms control, too, can be expected to sit high on the agenda of the forthcoming summit.

Moscow attaches special importance to realization of the second treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons which it signed with the United States. Under the treaty, known as the START II, the two countries pledged to reduce threefold their strategic nuclear arsenals. In a recent telephone conversation with Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton reiterated his support of the treaty, saying he would do his utmost to have it ratified. The accurate implementation of START II depends, however, on the solution of a few political and economic problems. It is essential that the Russian and U.S. Presidents coordinate their moves for ratification and focus on the problems of Russian-U.S. economic cooperation.

Just as his predecessor Bill Clinton voices support for the Russian democratic reforms. Most unfortunately, however, the White House has until now resorted to verbal declaration of support [as heard]—it's about time the two countries have decided on [as heard] joint action for the Russian reform.

The date and the venue of the presidents' rendezvous remain to be specified. The Russian foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state will be considering this angle. But there's not a shade of doubt that regardless of where and on what date it is held a Russian-U.S. summit will do much for further promotion of bilateral relations and world stabilization.

Clinton Appoints Thomas Pickering as Russian Ambassador

LD2601215793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1949 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington January 26 TASS—U.S. President Bill Clinton has appointed Thomas Pickering U.S. ambassador to Russia, an official representative of the White House said here today.

Pickering, 62, is a career diplomat, who was U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Jordan, El Salvador and Nigeria. During the presidency of George Bush, he was U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations.

The Pickering nomination shall be approved by the Senate.

FIS Delegation Head on Results of U.S. Visit

MK2701091793 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Interview with Lieutenant General Vadim Kirpichenko, head of Foreign Intelligence Service, FIS, director's consultants group, by Andrey Poleshchuk in Moscow following return of FIS delegation from U.S. visit; date not given; interview is published under the rubric "Contacts" and the general heading "Russian Intelligence Report—Freely Available; Tomorrow It Will Be Possible To Obtain It From the Hands of the FIS Leadership"]

[Text] As already reported, a Foreign Intelligence Service (FIS) delegation has been in the United States. It was headed by Lieutenant General Vadim Kirpichenko, who was first deputy chief of the intelligence service for 12 years and is now head of a group of consultants to the FIS director. The delegation also included Yuriy Koboladze, head of the FIS Bureau for Liaison With the Public and the Mass Media, and Konstantin Geyvandov, executive secretary of the Association of Intelligence Service Veterans.

On his return to Moscow Vadim Kirpichenko gave an exclusive interview to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

[Poleshchuk] Could your trip be called a sensation?

[Kirpichenko] Yes, it was a little piece of history. This was the first time Russian intelligence officers had gone to the United States openly, not to carry out any intelligence operations, and under their own names rather than assumed names.

[Poleshchuk] Was it hard work?

[Kirpichenko] Yes, we had five or six meetings a day. Unfortunately, there was not much time for sightseeing. We met with congressmen, journalists, businessmen, professors, students, intelligence officers, and counterintelligence officers.

[Poleshchuk] What was discussed? What do you think made the greatest impression on the Americans?

[Kirpichenko] First we sought to explain to the Americans that the intelligence service is no longer the KGB, that we have broken away from the KGB, that departyization has taken place, and that we have finally gotten a law on the intelligence service. The Russian intelligence service, we stressed, uses the services of its sources exclusively on a voluntary basis, does not interfere in anyone's internal affairs, and does not support any organizations or groups. We described how we are trying to collaborate with the intelligence services of the CIS republics and foreign states.

It apparently came as a complete revelation to the Americans that in our work we have abandoned the use of pressure, compromising materials, and the large-scale dissemination of disinformation.

[Poleshchuk] In which areas could cooperation between the CIA and the FIS develop most successfully?

[Kirpichenko] Surveillance of the processes of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the struggle against drug dealing, organized crime, and terrorism, plus the exchange of information on matters of interest to both sides, and when necessary the exchange of experts....

[Poleshchuk] Agents?

[Kirpichenko] No way! Of course that is impossible. Nobody is going to tell us who their agents are, and we are never going to tell anyone who ours are. It is a question of the exchange of information, without making public the source of that information. Protecting the source when exploiting information is the name of the game in our business. We are thinking primarily of the sources' safety.

Yeltsin Departs for 'Official State Visit' to India

LD2701085893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0842 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan—Russian President Boris Yeltsin left Moscow today on an official state visit to India.

To Focus on India's USSR Debt

OW2601143593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The questions of India's repayment of its debt to the former USSR and the ruble to rupee exchange rate still remain unresolved. Interfax was informed of this by a Foreign Ministry worker, who overseas Russo-Indian relations. In his words, considering the rate of inflation of the ruble, Russia is willing to write off up to 30% of India's debt to the former Soviet Union, the Indian side insists on the writing off of 60% of the debt (experts estimate India's credit debt alone to stand at 350-370 Bn [billion] rubles). "Thirty percent is our final offer,"—the diplomat said.

He noted that Russia is willing to compromise with regard to the period within which India's debt shall be written off. India must pay its debts by 2005. "We could extend the debt payment period by as much as 45 years,"—an expert said.

In his opinion, the Indians are counting on the fact that, during President Yeltsin's official visit to Delhi, starting Wednesday, the Russian side, "as has happened before," will make a "political decision," and move towards further compromise. "This time, such a thing will not happen,"—the diplomat underscored.

In Delhi, the Russian President will hold talks with the Indian Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao, will meet with President Shankar Dayal Sharma, and will appear before noted citizens of India.

In connection with the inter-ethnic tension in India at the moment, the President's cultural program will be somewhat "compacted". He will only visit the site of Mahatma Ghandi's cremation, and go on a tour of the Kutub-Minar historical complex.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 0955 GMT on 27 January adds the following: "Indian debt to Russia will be in the focus of discussion during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India.

["Indian debts comprise the reason for a two-fold decrease in trade turnover and economic cooperation between the two countries in the last three years, Yeltsin told TASS before leaving for New Delhi on Wednesday.

["Neither of the sides is satisfied with the 1978 protocol establishing the exchange rate of the rouble to the rupee, according to the president. 'We have to find the right correlation', he stressed. India wants to fix the year of 1986 as a 'starting point', while Russia believes it should be November 1, 1990, Yeltsin explained, adding that the problem is to be settled during the visit. 'We are ready to grant certain time to the Indian side for repaying its debt', he said.

["The president believes it is possible to restore the trade turnover in its previous volume, but refused to elaborate, saying he would have the answer to the question only after talks in India. 'We owe India some four million tonnes of oil, while we have shipped only some 600 thousand tonnes. The situation is to be changed. Preparatory work is being carried out, but it is too early to speak about it', he said.

["The president is more confident about the space deal on Russian supplies of rocket technologies to India. There is a governmental agreement between the two countries and Russia will strictly fulfil it, he said. Yeltsin added he leaves for India in a good mood as 'it feels easier when you are going to do a good job'.

["'We have wide and long-standing relations, our peoples are cooperating well, ties between the states are good, we never fought against each other. At present it is necessary to restore what has existed and adjust the relations to the new Russian policy in the Asian and Pacific region', the president said."]

Indian Minister Says Talks With Russia To Boost Cooperation

LD2701120793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1143 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Kamalito]

[Text] New Delhi January 27 TASS—"Indo-Russian high-level talks will give a much needed impetus to the development of bilateral ties, close fruitful interaction of India and Russia in different spheres in the interests of the two countries and the whole world," Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, India's minister of state of foreign affairs, said in an interview with Russian journalists.

Bhatia expressed confidence that the official visit of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the problems, which sustain the development of bilateral ties, to find mutually acceptable ways of their solution and to exchange views on a wide range of issues of current international situation. [sentence as received]

Bhatia noted that over several decades of India's relations with the Soviet Union, of which Russia has become a legal successor, "had a very sound base, strong, well-tuned cooperation in trading, economic and military-technical spheres, in the sphere of political interaction and as a whole an important factor of stability not only in the region, but in the whole world."

"We hope that the main content of our relations will remain unchanged," he said.

According to the foreign minister, in India "a national consensus in the favour of strengthening friendship and cooperation with Russia has been reached." Until recently, we were under the impression that in its bid to find a way out of the economic difficulties, Russia was looking towards the United States and the Western Europe. However, President Yeltsin's visit to India, along with his recent quite successful visit to China, proves Russia's resolve to pursue a balanced foreign policy, directed towards strengthening of the ties with the major Asian powers. From our side we can only welcome it," he said.

Regarding the contents of the forthcoming talks, Bhatia said "the present level of trade and economic cooperation does not meet the potential of both countries." It is very important to regulate the ruble-rupee exchange rate, which will determine the amount of India's debts, owed upon earlier provided credits. Russia has traditionally been India's main supplier of modern armaments and the spare parts for them. Now India is expecting a breakthrough in this field of cooperation also, where considerable difficulties have surfaced," the minister said.

Speaking of international aspects of the visit, Bhatia noted that the positions that India and Russia hold on the main world problems are "close or coincide, which forms a basis for the strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the political sphere."

Spokesman Says Russia Plans To Boost Ties With India

LD2601164493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1622 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—Russia is a Euro-Asian power and it attaches as much importance to relations with Asian countries as with European states. Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visits to South Korea and China and now to India are likely to dispel apprehensions about the alleged pro-Western orientation in the Russian foreign policy. A spokesman in the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS that Russia intends to invigorate its policy in the Asian direction and become an equal participant in the current processes there. Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to India is regarded exactly from this point of view.

The key document—a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Russian Federation and India and a package of agreements covering the most diverse areas of bilateral interaction: trade, economic, scientific-technical and military links and also cooperation along the line of the two countries' law enforcement agencies—will be signed during Yeltsin's visit. An inter- governmental protocol on Russian-Indian consultations will be signed for the first time in relations between the two countries.

Some pause has been observed in Russian-Indian relations since 1990. In this regard, voices began to be heard that Russia does not pay due attention to India. ITAR-TASS was told that India, a great Asian power with a huge economic, scientific and cultural potential, is viewed by the Russian leadership as an important strategic partner. "The Indian direction in Russia's foreign policy will always be among the priority ones."

In Russian diplomatic circles they do not doubt that the present visit to India will make it possible to shore up the traditional spirit of trust and mutual understanding. The core difficulties in our relations are in the trade and economic sphere. The principal among them is the

problem of re-estimating India's debt under state credits extended by the former Soviet Union. India's debt to Russia amounts to some 10 billion dollars and it had to pay it off by the year 2010.

A further development of ties between the two countries is linked to a considerable extent with the settlement of the payments problem. Russia is prepared to defer a repayment of India's debt mindful of the complexities of re-estimating the debt in the correlation between the rouble and the rupee. There are no doubts that a way out and ways of resolving involved problems in trade- economic and military-technical areas will be found during meetings between the two countries' leaders.

"We hope that the visit will make it possible to lay down a sturdy legal foundation for shaping a qualitatively new Russian- Indian cooperation. Our task is to move forward and strengthen ties in a variety of areas relying on the ample experience of Russian- Indian relations in the previous period," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Yeltsin Sends Greetings to Indian Leaders

BK2601144093 Moscow Radio Moscow in Hindi 1100 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a message of greetings to Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao on the 43d anniversary of the founding of the Indian Republic. In the message, the president extended his heart-felt greetings and good wishes to the leaders and the people of India. The Russian president said Russia and India are linked together by strong bonds of mutually beneficial cooperation. They share identical views on basic issues concerning global politics. Boris Yeltsin expressed the hope that his visit to New Delhi will provide strong stimulus to their joint efforts for reviving bilateral relations keeping in view the changes that have taken place in Russia and India and in the entire world. He emphasized that accelerating the pace of development of bilateral relations and making full use of their potentials are totally in keeping with the basic interests of the people of Russia and India. Boris Yeltsin wished good health and success to leaders and progress and prosperity to the people of India.

Indian Prime Minister on Yeltsin, CIS

LD2601132793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi January 26 TASS—Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Monday responded to ITAR-TASS questions about Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to India.

Question: Cardinal changes in the former USSR and in the East European countries, the end of the cold war have led to a radical new international situation. How do you evaluate these changes and what role and place do you see for independent India in Asia and in the new world?

Answer: The changes that have taken place and are continuing in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are expected to have a major impact on international relations. The process of reformulation of international relations and the building of new international structures has begun. Developments in the countries of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union will have a very important bearing on the evolution of this new order.

The changes taking place in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are not only of a political dimension but also embrace far- reaching economic reforms with the objective of closer integration into the international economic system and efforts to firmly establish a pluralist form of democracy although the pace and content in respect of these activities varies from country to country. These processes, taking place simultaneously, have given rise to a plethora of problems within these countries and also those which have an external dimension including, inter alia, the rise of ethnic nationalism, migration of populations, a re-orientation of the trans-atlantic and European security structures, multiplicity of political parties and movements and self-doubt about several aspects of the change including the likelihood of substantial economic recovery in an acceptably reasonable time frame.

The pursuit of a non-aligned foreign policy is even more relevant today than ever before. The latter translates, inter alia, into decision-making by consensus. And, accommodating change through consensus today is necessary not only to prevent explosions tomorrow but also to accommodate the economic, political, technological and military realities that have emerged since the end of the cold war.

India's commitment to the policy of non-alignment is even firmer today than ever. It has been and it continues to be our desire and intention to have the best possible relations with all countries, not only in Asia but in the whole world.

Question: India and the people of former Soviet Union had good relations in all spheres of life for several decades. After the collapse of USSR, due to objective reasons, the relations are not at their best. What do you think of India's present and future relations with Russia and with the CIS countries?

Answer: India had very good relations with the former Soviet Union. We want those relations to endure with the successor states. India's relations with these states are being reconstructed on new lines. There is a necessary transition to be made by Russia and other newly independent countries, but it is our expectation that India's relations with Russia and other CIS countries would stabilise and strengthen.

Question: What do you expect from the forthcoming visit of the president of Russia Mr. Boris Yeltsin in the

context of further development of relations between India and Russia, which are now going through important reforms?

Answer: We look forward to receiving President Yeltsin. We have been awaiting him for sometime now. Our two countries can draw on the established tradition of understanding and cooperation both in the bilateral and international context. President Yeltsin's visit would permit us to jointly take stock of the state of Indo-Russian relations, to chart for these relations a new course and exchange ideas on issues that are high on the agenda of international relations.

Kozyrev Discusses START II, Yugoslavia, Others

OW2601154293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing an enlarged session of the Russian parliament's Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev urged the parliament to ratify the START-2 treaty and proposed organizing joint hearings in the Russian parliament and US Senate. In his opinion, the Russian parliament might help persuade Ukraine to ratify the Lisbon Protocol and demonstrate its readiness to ratify the START-2 treaty.

Kozyrev also noted that Russia has "nearly approached the limits of cuts, corresponding to the real needs of national defence". Priority is being shifted now to the task of preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, enhancing trust-building measures and ensuring security and stability, he said.

Speaking about the crisis in former Yugoslavia, Kozyrev said that the parties involved in the Bosnia conflict have accepted the Vance-Owen plan largely due to Russia's efforts. He also noted that the Russian Foreign Ministry maintains active contacts with Belgrade and with representatives of the Croatians and Muslims, who have lately carried out a number of provocative acts. Unlike Yugoslavia, Russia has not lost its international positions following the break-up of the Soviet Union. On the contrary, it has gained a great deal, the minister said.

He highly estimated Boris Yeltsin's visit to China, saying that ideology will be removed from Russia's relations with China and other Asian and Pacific states, and that the pragmatic approach will gain the upper hand.

He also announced that the number of foreign official visits will be reduced, because the "required amount of work has been done already". "We shall receive more people at home," he said.

Speaking about Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan, he said that Russia has inherited a lot of problems complicating its relations with that state. "We'll be untangling this knot without haste and linkages with the G7, if, to quote the president, Japan does not put too much pressure on Russia during the discussion of the Kuril problem.

Kozyrev told the deputies that Boris Yeltsin is planning to visit Brussels for concluding a cardinally new and large-scale agreement on partnership and cooperation between Russia and the EC.

He spoke in detail about the results of the Minsk summit. In his opinion, the approval of the CIS Charter was the main result of that political event. "The strong point of this document is that it creates opportunities for broader cooperation between the CIS states which do want to cooperate," he said. "However, this document does not alienate the state which are still undecided, allowing them to participate in cooperation in the forms and volumes they find acceptable." Ukraine has made half a step towards accepting the Charter, said Kozyrev. In Minsk, the idea of a multi-paced commonwealth, proposed by Boris Yeltsin, was not only supported, but also received a legal backing, said Andrey Kozyrev.

Discusses UN, Iraq Policy

OW2601205793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2021 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, declared that as before Moscow supports the course to fulfill the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Baghdad. Responding to journalists questions following his appearance before the legislators, Kozyrev refuted the supposition that the statements of Boris Yeltsin voiced at the press conference on Monday testify to changes in Russia's foreign policy. In particular, Yeltsin declared, that Russia's point of view differs from the American one with respect to the events in Iraq and Yugoslavia. According to the Minister, "the Russian leader has just summed up the statements of the Russian Foreign Ministry on Iraq and the Yugoslavian crisis."

In Kozyrev's words, Russia believes it is necessary to continue further coordination of all UN Security Council members' actions. "Over the last time American diplomats are just demonstrating tendency to act without looking back at the others and this was the reason of Yeltsin's remark," he explained.

The Minister declared that actions of Croatian leaders are "reckless and adventurous." Taking this into account, Russia deemed it necessary to warn Croatia as it did with respect to Serbia.

Later Kozyrev reported that issue concerning the terms of Russian President visit to Japan has not been solved yet. According to Kozyrev, Russia "will not undertake hasty actions and connect this tour with the summit of "G-7" in Tokyo" because the summit of seven highly industrialized countries scheduled for July 1993 has nothing in common with Russian-Japanese relations.

Speaking about the planned visit of the Russian President to Brussels to sign an agreement on cooperation between Russia and the European community, Kozyrev pointed out that this tour may be scheduled in two-three months or half a year.

As far as Minister's meeting with his American colleague, the U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher, is concerned, Kozyrev said that it is due to take place "without any artificial delay." At the same time he said that one should not be in a hurry to organize such a meeting because the American administration has just started to take the office.

Kozyrev drew attention of the journalists to the fact that nobody put questions concerning Iraq during his meeting with deputies.

After the meeting with Kozyrev Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, the chairman of the parliamentary committee on international affairs and foreign economic relations, said in his interview with INTERFAX that the Russian Supreme Soviet will be discussing the START-2 Treaty during 2-3 months. As the legislator believes, the number of this document's supporters and adversaries will change in the process of their acquaintance with the document.

Speaking about his meeting with Kozyrev, Ambartsumov pointed out that "serious positive moves have been noticed in the actions of the Russian Foreign Ministry, certainly under the influence of the Russian Supreme Soviet, in particular, on the Yugoslavian issue." Ambartsumov said that such meetings with the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry should not be closed ones.

Outlines Foreign Policy Priorities

LD2601164193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1528 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Rostislav Gertsev and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—Russia is going to cut the number of top-level foreign visits, but the trip of President Boris Yeltsin to India will undoubtedly take place, according to Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

"Now that the legal and political foundation of relations with the outside world has been laid", Russia is shifting the focus of attention towards internal problems, Kozyrev said addressing the parliamentary Commission on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations on Tuesday.

Although Russia will maintain active foreign contacts, their character is changing at present. "In particular, the number of foreign visits is being reduced and the number of return visits to Moscow increases", he explained.

The visit of the Russian president to Japan is still in question, according to Kozyrev, who added that Yeltsin plans to visit Brussels to conclude a new large-scale agreement on partnership and cooperation with the European Community.

Kozyrev outlined to lawmakers the priorities of the Russian foreign policy.

One of them is to strengthen the Commonwealth of Independent States. The minister stressed that the recent CIS summit in Minsk spoke in favour of preserving the Commonwealth. Thus, the idea of President Yeltsin about "various speed" of signing the CIS statute by the member-states was approved by heads of state, according to the minister.

Another priority is the protection of human rights of Russians in the Commonwealth. In Estonia permanent missions which will monitor human rights of the Russian-speaking population are being planned and the post of a special envoy of the foreign minister on the rights of the Russian-speaking population will be instituted, Kozyrev said, adding that if necessary his ministry appeals directly to the world community.

The third direction of the Russian foreign policy aims to create a "belt of good neighbours" around Russian borders—from the Kola peninsula in the north to the Amur River in the Far East. President Yeltsin's visit to China was a breakthrough in this direction. Russia strengthened its positions as an Asian state as the sphere of its interests spreads both to the west and to the east, the minister said.

The conference on cooperation in the Barents and Euro-Arctic region also contributed to the creation of a favourable climate along Russian European sea borders, he added.

Kozyrev praised the Russian-U.S. START-2 treaty and the international convention banning chemical weapons as key documents in ensuring national security of Russia, but added that "disarmament is not a goal in itself" for the country.

The task is to move to a higher level of national security by balanced disarmament steps. Defence efforts should be correlated with the existing capabilities of the country and the interests of economic revival of Russia, according to the minister.

The Ukrainian position on nuclear strategic armaments impedes the implementation of the START-1 and START-2 treaties and "we are inducing Ukraine to an unconditional fulfilment of the Lisbon protocol", Kozyrev said, adding that Russia wants a clear-cut Ukrainian confirmation that it would ratify the START-1 and join the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty as a nuclear-free state.

Yeltsin Signs Directive To Step Up Work With Iraq

OW2601143793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1417 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the framework of preparations for his official visit to India, President Yeltsin has signed a directive, under which Russia's Foreign Ministry is to step up its work with Iraq with a view to creating conditions for a resumption of Iraqi oil supplies to repay credits granted by the former USSR.

Furthermore, in efforts to resolve this problem, the Foreign Ministry will intensify its contacts with "the other interested parties" for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions on a settlement in the Persian Gulf, with the subsequent lifting of sanctions against Baghdad.

Before the Persian Gulf crisis, the former Soviet Union re-exported a large quantity of Iraqi oil and oil products to India. When the UN embargo was imposed, Russia sharply reduced its oil shipments, and last year it was able to supply India with only 260 thousand tons, though its commitment amounted to 4 Mn [million] tons. Another 1.1 Mn tons of Russian oil were imported by Indian firms under direct transactions.

The disrupted oil supplies led to a sharp fall in the level of goods turnover between Russia and India. According to experts in Russia's Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations (MFER), it decreased by one half and made up approximately 1.5 Bn [billion] dollars.

MFER sources say that in the current year Russia intends to ship to India 2 Mn tons of oil "on interconnected basis".

A high ranking Foreign Ministry official said that "in the present circumstances, the president's directive is hard to accomplish." According to him, the world community can hardly be expected to lift its sanctions against Iraq before Baghdad begins to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The diplomat conceded that Russia would be interested in a resumption of Iraqi oil supplies, to India too, on account of repaying its debt to the former USSR. "But the key to resolving this problem is in Baghdad," he pointed out.

Foreign Ministry Denounces 'Saboteurs' Sent To Iraq

LD2601173593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry denounced the dispatch of a group of Russian saboteurs to Iraq by the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] headed by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and appealed to the Prosecutor's Office to stop the activities.

Nine Russian "Kamikaze" left for Baghdad on Sunday to fight "U.S. imperialism".

In a statement released on Tuesday the ministry qualified the move as a "rude provocation contradicting the international law and the decisions of the U.N. Security Council".

"The action has nothing in common with the Russian line in the Middle East direction and contradicts the efforts to restore peace and stability in the Persian Gulf zone", it said.

The ministry regretted that young Russian guys will have to pay for political ambitions and adventurism of other people.

"In order to ensure the fulfilment of Russian commitments to the international law the Foreign Ministry sends an official request to the Prosecutor's Office of Russia to take the necessary measures and cut short the activities", according to the statement.

'Volunteers' Said To Damage Russia's Prestige

PM2601140993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Maksim Yusin report: "Zhirinovskiy's Gunmen Fly to Iraq To Engage in Terrorism. Russian Authorities Powerless To Prevent This"]

[Text] On the evening of 24 January television news bulletins carried an item about the touching farewell between Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and 10 gunmen heading for Iraq to fight U.S. imperialism.

The "volunteers" include specialists in mine disposal and sabotage operations. "We will blow up several Kuwaiti ports and aircraft," Zhirinovskiy shared his plans in an interview with the British SUNDAY TIMES.

Zhirinovskiy does not even consider it necessary to conceal the fact that he is sending his people to Baghdad to engage in terrorism. Despite this they are freely obtaining exit documents and, before boarding the airplane, they staged a show for the television cameras at the international airport. The Russian authorities, which have signed many an international document on fighting terrorism, have not taken any steps to prevent this widely publicized trip, which was known about several days ago. It is hard to imagine that the Americans, if they were in a similar situation, would have allowed gunmen proclaiming that they are heading (for instance) for the Baltic region or Tajikistan to blow up the "Russian occupiers'" tanks and ships to fly peacefully from Washington.

Experts in the Foreign Ministry Legal Department explained to us that Russian criminal legislation has no articles providing for the punishment of such activity. As regards the international convention on combating the

mercenary soldiery adopted in 1990 at a UN General Assembly session, neither the Soviet Union nor its successor Russia have signed this document. True, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev recently proposed in Stockholm that a new convention toughening measures against terrorists, mercenaries, and "volunteers" be elaborated, but this question is currently at the discussion stage.

Neither, by all accounts, were there grounds to refuse the Liberal Democratic Party gunmen exit visas. IZVESTIYA was informed by the Iraqi embassy: "These people came to us themselves, stated their intention, and we issued visas to them." It was not difficult to obtain a Russian exit visa when in possession of an Iraqi entry visa. Ultimately the "volunteers," when indicating the purpose of their visit, could have modestly kept quiet about their wish to blow up ports and aircraft.

The Russian authorities were not in a position to prevent an act which is seriously damaging our prestige in the world. And, if in the near future Zhirinovskiy realizes his promise to raise a "battalion of 400 men" for dispatch to Iraq, he will then most likely be able to rush this operation through just as easily and freely.

Article Deplores Government Inaction

MK2601140193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Minkin article followed by unattributed postscript: "Falcon Hunting. The Russian Foreign Ministry Has Sent Terrorists To Kill Americans. Clinton Will Have Something To Talk About With Yeltsin"]

[Excerpts] On 24 January Itogi and Vesti showed Russian terrorists being sent off to Iraq. Attractive young guys in handsome uniforms were flying off to fight for Saddam Husayn. Voluntarily.

The volunteers' chief, Zhirinovskiy, delivered a valedictory speech: "The Americans are a weak nation. All disease, everything repulsive comes from America. Their achievements add up to AIDS and chewing-gum."

Following this logic, these super-healthy and highly moral guys have to annihilate the harmful and infectious American nation.

And Zhirinovskiy's falcons made no secret of their objectives. One of them said: "I'll shoot any American between the eyes from five kilometers. I'm a marksman." [passage omitted]

My questions are to the president, the government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Security, and so forth,

What are you doing? What are you thinking? You are issuing passports for foreign travel and exit visas to Russian citizens who are flying off to kill Americans. A noble objective, of course. But surely we aren't capable of fighting a war with the United States? Or did we not sign the convention on international terrorism?

Falcons should have to sneak across the border illegally, secretly, at night, on tip-toe.

But here we see them marching to Sheremetyevo-II International Airport in broad daylight, with pomp and ceremony, in formation, with flags and songs, and with a police guard....

Imagine a similar scene at Kennedy Airport: American commandos heading off for Chechnya, solemnly promising to shoot any Russian between the eyes... I think that within an hour they would be in a detention room spilling the beans about who had paid for their fine uniforms and who had provided the money for their expensive tickets.

Where did the money come from? Where does Zhirinovskiy the falcon get his millions (there aren't even 30 people in his party, it transpires)? Who provides the visas for his young falcons?

This government makes me want to scream.

Postscript: MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS asked the Russian Foreign Ministry to comment on these events. Aleksandr Novozhilov, head of the Iraq and Jordan Department, informed us that the Foreign Ministry's official view will be made known in the very near future. But until then he considers it incorrect and premature to comment on the facts or express his own personal opinion.

Rutskoy Views Using Veto To Halt Actions Against Iraq

PM2601143593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by Konstantin Eggert: "A. Rutskoy on the Possibility of Russia's Using Its Veto"]

[Text] "Should Russia use its veto to halt the current actions against Iraq?" "Sure." That was Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's reply to the WASHINGTON POST correspondent's question during a live Radio Liberty broadcast on Saturday.

"I am opposed to strong-arm methods, which, with rare exceptions, do not work. If we decide to tackle the problem by force it will assume a long-term character," Aleksandr Vladimirovich said. His statement was carried by most of the world's agencies.

So the vice president was expressing a view that differs substantially from the position of the Russian Foreign Ministry, which, as is known, favors "appropriate measures," conforming to the degree of gravity of Baghdad's violations of UN Security Council resolutions. A senior ministry spokesmen told your IZVESTIYA correspondent in this connection: "The use of the veto depends on the specific situation. It is a serious mistake to talk in absolutes. It is like saying we will stick up for any aggressor in the future." According to the diplomat, Russia is opposed to steps that might result in civilian

casualties. "In that sense, the 18 January raid on Baghdad by U.S. aviation, during which civilians were killed, aroused our concern," he observed. "But this does not mean that Moscow will definitely oppose military measures against the Husayn regime in the future, if he openly ignores the will of the world community."

In a telephone conversation, vice presidential adviser Andrey Fedorov claimed that A. Rutskoy was merely referring to the possibility of the Russian Federation's using its veto in the event of the "threat of massive bloodshed and casualties among the civilian population." But then opposite is clear from a recording of the conversation with which our paper was supplied by Radio Liberty: Aleksandr Vladimirovich favors unconditional use of the veto.

This view, as expressed by the number two man in the Russian state hierarchy, could significantly complicate Russia's stance at the proposed Security Council session on the crisis in the Gulf. In recent days Moscow has been actively advocating the holding of the meeting.

Ministry Official Denies 'Dual Standards' on Iraq

MK2601113593 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 4, 24 Jan 93 (Signed to press 19 Jan) p 7

[Article by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov: "Iraq: The Reaction Must Be Appropriate"]

[Text] The situation around Iraq has passed the critical point. This is the result of a series of actions by Baghdad in violation of UN decisions. We are also talking about steps like the violation of the border with Kuwait, the siting of missiles south of the 32d parallel, the seizure of military property earmarked for destruction, and the blocking of the work of the UN special commission and of humanitarian actions involving international organizations.

Russia has repeatedly urged the Iraqi side, including via its embassy in Baghdad, to display sense and refrain from steps leading to the heightening of tension in the region. The four demarches toward Iraq in recent days by the permanent members of the Security Council were clear signals to the Iraqis of the need to stop ignoring UN decisions.

Unfortunately Baghdad did not heed them and continued its line aimed at provoking the international community. This adventurist line is costing the Iraqi state dear. Lives have been lost, which we profoundly regret.

The Iraqi leadership should have no illusions about the world community's determination to make it heed the United Nations' will. The key to normalizing the situation lies in Baghdad. It must be clear that only the full implementation of Security Council decisions can create the objective conditions for settling the crisis.

At the same time the response to Iraq's actions must be appropriate and based on agreed actions and must not affect cities and civilian facilities in that country. Nor can we fail to be concerned about the fate of the small Russian colony in Baghdad. All sides must take this fully into account.

Judging by the response to developments, public opinion and also experts have a number of questions, particularly about the legal basis for the actions that have been taken and about "dual standards." As for the first question, the answer is given by numerous UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions. In Resolution 678 of 30 November 1990 the UNSC authorized the member-states, if Iraq liberated Kuwait by 15 January 1991 [as published], "to use all necessary means" to fulfill Resolution 660 (on the withdrawal of Iraqi troops) and "all subsequent corresponding resolutions." The latter include, in particular, Resolution 687 of 5 April 1991, which spelled out the cease-fire terms in detail (the elimination under UN supervision of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and the nonresumption of their production and development; the inviolability of the border with Kuwait; the deployment of UN observers on this border; and Iraqi compensation for the losses incurred by Kuwait and other countries as a result of the aggression).

On the subject of "dual standards." When people talk about this matter they most often cite the Yugoslav crisis and a Near East settlement, where the UNSC is allegedly being passive and could also use force. This would not appear to be totally correct. First, the UNSC is constantly wrestling with the Yugoslav crisis and has adopted a series of resolutions on measures to influence the warring sides in the former SFRY. The UNSC also keeps a constant eye on the Near East situation, which has deteriorated recently in connection with Israel's deportation of 415 Palestinians. A recent UNSC resolution demanded that Israel solve this problem. The Russian representative to the United Nations was instructed to raise with UNSC members the question of additional measures in this connection.

Second, for all the tension of the situation in the former SFRY and the Near East, in both instances the sides in conflict with each other are participants in talks on a peaceful settlement. They are proceeding with difficulty, but chances of success do exist. It is hardly timely, for example, to discuss the idea of strong-arm intervention in Bosnia when a plan for a settlement in the country is being adopted in Geneva. This is the premise from which the Russian representative on the UNSC is proceeding.

Iraq, whose problems are the result of its own aggression and blatant violations of commitments which it adopted at the demand of the United Nations, is another matter.

Finally, on the subject of the new world order. It is clear that it will not be cloudless. Nor can it be reduced to simplistic "single standard" formulas—if only because none of today's conflicts are similar to each other (as we can see for ourselves, incidentally, across the former USSR).

Russia as a permanent member of the UNSC is prepared to make its contribution to maintaining international and regional peace and stability and to cooperate with all interested parties. As for the situation around Iraq, there is evidently now a need for another special UNSC examination of it with a view to ensuring the fulfillment of its resolutions on a settlement in the Persian Gulf.

Experts Discuss Saddam Husayn's Latest Actions

MK2601113493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 4, 24 Jan 93 (Signed to press 19 Jan) p 15

[Roundup of "Experts' Opinons" under general heading "So What Is It Saddam Husayn Wants?"]

[Text] Vitaliy Naumkin, deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies:

Saddam Husayn chose the right moment to take revenge for the defeat in the Gulf War. He wanted to present himself before the world community as the "victim" of American attacks without, as in the past, risking losing too much. Husayn was pursuing several objectives: Winning the support of his own country's population; changing international public opinion in Iraq's favor; and showing the entire world that he is in control of the situation in the country and forcing others to conduct a dialogue with him. Furthermore, Husayn very much wanted to demonstrate "as a good-bye present" George Bush's lack of credibility.

Unfortunately, to a large extent Husayn managed to achieve all this. First, he did indeed look like a "victim," and many people are expressing doubts about the legitimacy of the American action, particularly in the light of the clumsiness with which it was carried out. Second, it caused a wave of sympathy in Iraq itself. Third, there has been disapproval for the U.S. actions from many countries, including some of the United States' coalition allies. Fourth, Bush did not manage to defeat Husayn, and Clinton has conceded the possibility—on certain conditions—of dialogue with him.

Thus, instead of curbing the aggressor, we have seen the weakening of the anti-Baghdad coalition. But I still think that Husayn will not succeed in emerging from isolation unless he radically changes his policy.

Professor Grigoriy Bondarevskiy of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociopolitical Research:

The two attacks on Iraq in recent days differ substantially from each other in both form and essence. The first attack was motivated by Iraq's violations of UN Security Council resolutions, which Baghdad committed in an overt manner.

The second attack—on the evening of 17 January—was probably not dictated by military necessity. Its target was enterprises near Baghdad producing components for weapons of mass destruction. It should be noted that UN experts did not consider this attack to be adequately justified. The long-suffering Al-Rashid Hotel fell victim to a rocket attack.

Saddam Husayn's endless playing with fire in recent times was evidently predicated on the calculation that in U.S. history there had never been a precedent of an outgoing president taking any major military-political action. Husayn was undoubtedly counting on using his actions to strengthen his shaky position in the country and the Arab world, where ambivalent processes are currently taking place (the exacerbation of friction between Arab countries, the growth of Islamic fundamentalism, and so forth).

I think that both sides miscalculated. As a result of the U.S. attack the general situation around Baghdad has become more complex. But the Baghdad dictator's position is also extremely dangerous. France and Britain supported the Americans with actions. And two days before being sworn in as vice president, Al Gore stated that there will be no negotiations with Baghdad while Husayn is in power.

Doctor of Political Sciences Andrey Shumikhin of the Russian Academy of Sciences United States and Canada Institute:

Saddam Husayn's actions clearly reflect his tendency to divide the world along ideological lines and recreate something like the Cold War in both East-West and North-South relations. Calls for a "great jihad"—a holy war—are being heard from Baghdad for the umpteenth time.

It is perfectly obvious that the disposition of forces which emerged after "Desert Storm" does not suit Saddam Husayn. But there is reason to hope that the model of bloc confrontation will not be replicated in world politics inn the near future. One of the guarantees of this is the readiness of influential members of the international community to defend the independence of small states and halt the "virus" of aggression wherever it may appear—Somalia, Yugoslavia, the Near East.

However, it is no use thinking that even those states which are economically and militarily strongest, such as the United States, will be willing or able single-handed and perpetually to play the part of "world policemen." Every member of the international community should obviously fulfill its duties under the UN Charter in the cause of preventing and curbing aggression and war.

Official Views Moscow's Role in International Arena

OW2601165093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andry Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia is a great power, and it has to be reckoned with in any circumstances, including the efforts to settle conflicts in the "hot spots", such as Iraq and Yugoslavia, a high ranking member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. According to him, neither the USA, nor the world community can ignore Moscow's viewpoint concerning these issues.

He sees no discrepancy in the attitudes to Iraq displayed by President Yeltsin and by Russia's Foreign Ministry, the diplomat said.

Addressing Russian and Indian journalists in Moscow on Monday, Boris Yeltsin said that Russia's viewpoint concerning developments in and around Iraq and Yugoslavia differs from that of the USA.

In this connection the diplomat referred to the Foreign Ministry's statement of January 18. The statement said that any actions toward Iraq should be coordinated at the U.N. Security Council, not taken unilaterally.

"Military actions against Iraq were an inadequate answer to Baghdad's moves. Strikes on civilian targets and civilian deaths cannot fail to be deplored. It's natural that Russia cannot support such actions," said DP's interviewee.

Official on 'Balanced Influence' Policy Toward Yugoslavia

LD2601173693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1645 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 January—Russia will continue to pursue a firm policy of balanced influence on all sides in the Yugoslav crisis in the interests of the speediest peaceful settlement, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

Commenting on the UN Security Council resolution condemning the combat operations of the Croatian side in Serbian Krajina, which was adopted at Russia's initiative, he reported that it contains a demand for an immediate end by the Croatian armed formations of their hostile actions in areas under the protection of UN forces and for their withdrawal from these areas. Should Croatia fail to fulfill the demands of this and other UN Security Council resolutions, similar sanctions to those applied against the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia [as received] should be applied against it.

The appeal of the Security Council to all sides involved in the crisis to contribute to the Geneva talks is of important significance, the Russian diplomat noted. We view their success as a chance to re-establish peace in the Balkans, he stressed.

Churkin Views Relations With Macedonia, Yugoslavia

OW2601165593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andry Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia proceeds from the assumption that the issue of enabling Macedonia to join international organizations, including the U.N., should be resolved, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin told DP [Diplomatic Panorama]. On Tuesday he conferred in Moscow with his Macedonian counterpart, Risko Nikovskiy.

According to Churkin, Moscow is interested in "finding solutions that would be maximally acceptable to Greece and that would serve to stabilize the situation in the Balkans". It's common knowledge that Athens opposes the international recognition of Macedonia, because in its view this name can belong only to a province in Greece.

With reference to the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations between Russia and Macedonia, Churkin said that "such prospects exist". However, he said, concrete dates and times connected with this were not discussed [illegible] conference in Moscow.

Churkin assessed the Western reaction to Croatia's military actions against the Serbs very positively. The U.N. Security Council adopted its resolution condemning these actions at Russia's initiative, he said. "In connection with this issue we appealed to the European Communities and to Germany. In both cases the answer was quick, and its tone and content corresponded to Moscow's concern," said Russia's deputy foreign minister. By forming a "united front" the world community responded to a challenge of the crisis in Yugoslavia "unanimously" once again, he said.

Opposition Criticizes Moscow's Policies on Yugoslavia

OW2601184693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1808 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's support for U.N. sanctions against Belgrade has weakened its position in the Balkans, leading to colossal financial losses, People's Deputy Vladimir Isakov, who is a leader of the Russian Unity faction, told Interfax. Isakov returned from Serbia a few days ago.

In his opinion, the initiators of the international sanctions were planning to "weaken the economic positions of Yugoslavia as a rapidly developing European state."

He also believes that the Russian parliament should consider the situation in Yugoslavia without delay and urge the world community to cancel sanctions because

the Bosnian Serbs have accepted the Vance-Owen plan. If the world community does not agree to do so, Russia should quit the campaign of sanctions.

Russian's foreign policy on Yugoslavia and Iraq has a secondary and subservient nature, he said. He also described Boris Yeltsin's recent statement to the effect that Russia's attitude to the developments connected with these states differs from that of the U.S. as merely a decorative impromptu which has nothing to do with the real political situation. Boris Yeltsin just wants to save appearances following a series of deep political defeats, he said.

NATO General Leads Delegation on Moscow Visit

LD2701085793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0808 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—General John Shalikashvili, commander-in-chief of the NATO allied armed forces in Europe, arrives in Moscow today together with a group of generals and officers at the invitation of Russian Defence Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, a spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry told ITAR-TASS.

During the visit, which will last until January 30, the NATO delegation plans to meet political and military leaders of Russia and the CIS and to visit the Frunze Military Academy in Moscow.

General Shalikashvili is expected to be received today by Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Allied Armed Forces Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

Kozyrev Said To Ask Japan To Ease Pressure Over Kurils

OW2701011493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0024 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 26 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev urged Japan on Tuesday to ease pressure on his country regarding a longstanding territorial dispute, INTERFAX news agency reported.

He told an enlarged session of the Russian parliament's committee for international affairs and foreign economic relations that Russian President Boris Yeltsin is tackling the issue without haste, INTERFAX said.

"We'll be untangling this knot without haste and linkages with the G-7 (Group of Seven), if, to quote the president, Japan does not put too much pressure on Russia during the discussion of the Kuril problem," he said.

Leaders of the G-7 countries—the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada—will gather in Tokyo in July for an annual economic summit to discuss aid to Russia and other major political and economic issues.

The territorial dispute involves four small islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Kozyrev's comment came as the interdepartmental commission of Russia's Security Council was taking over from the Foreign Ministry in coordinating international issues. The council is empowered to take decisions on issues affecting Russia's vital interests.

INTERFAX said the commission, led by Security Council Secretary Yuriy Skokov, will draft Yeltsin's resolutions on foreign policy issues.

Commentary Says Israel Must Comply With UN Resolutions

LD2601165793 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israel has allowed some of the Palestinian deportees, allegedly expelled over a month ago by mistake, to return home. In fact, Israel has not admitted that it was wrong as much as it has acknowledged the illegality of the expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians. If we take into account the Knesset decision of lifting the ban on contacts with the PLO by Israeli citizens, we may consider that there is a certain change in Tel Aviv's stubborn attitude towards the Palestinians; and not only toward the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

What could have influenced such an obvious softening in the anti- Palestinian attitude within the governing Israeli circles? Aleksandr Krasnov answers his own question by saying:

We believe that, to start with, it was the world community reaction to the latest Israeli behavior. It may be recalled that the UN Security Council had, towards the end of last year, passed Resolution 799 calling for the return of over 400 expelled Palestinians to their homes. It is important to note that the United States representative had voted for that resolution. These realities have astonished Israel who has known for many years that it had never been punished for any of the actions it had taken, whether against the Palestinians or the Arabs as a whole.

Israel knew very well that, under the atmosphere of the cold war, the United States was going to support it in practically every action it had taken against the Arabs, including the expulsion of the Palestinians, something which Israel had done for many years past.

Collective punishment of Palestinians used at the time to raise the objection of the former Soviet Union and its Arab allies and the nonaligned countries. The United States and [words indistinct], however, would do its utmost to prevent that objection being translated into tangible punishment to be imposed on Israel.

The journalist Aleksandr Krasnov says: As the priorities of world politics sharply and substantively change,

Israel's illegal actions in the Middle East begin to provoke the objections of even the United States and other Western countries.

The Iraqi situation, and especially the military activities of the United States and its allies against the Baghdad regime have played a role in the emergence of signs of change in Israel's attitude towards the Palestinians. They have also prompted a lot of people in the world to speak and write of double-standards in Washington's policy in the Middle East.

While such effective and severe measures are taken against Iraq for its violation of the UN Security Council resolutions demands, the United States does nothing even remotely similar towards Israel. A lot of talking is currently going on in UN corridors about the need for a new UN Security Council resolution to force Israel to implement Resolution 799, relating to the fate of the Palestinian deportees.

This situation represents a somewhat embarrassing development for official circles in Washington who intends to continue playing the role of honest broker in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. The lack of solution for the issue of the fate of Palestinian deportees, however, puts the continuation of the bilateral negotiations in question. It would not, therefore, be unlikely that Washington would have advised its Israeli friends to dispose, as soon as possible, of the complex situation brought about by Israel's decision of collective punishment against the Palestinians.

It is interesting to recall the incident when Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in his talks with the U.S. ambassador, demanded that Washington should persuade UN Security Council members not to resume fresh debates on the issue of the fate of the Palestinian deportees before the Jewish state's Supreme Court announced its view on this matter. On Monday, HA'ARIZ newspaper said that some ministers in Rabin's government had expressed their hope that the Supreme Court would acknowledge the illegality of the decision to expel more than 400 Palestinians. This would allow the government to retract its decision and save face.

But it is too early, as Aleksandr Krasnov believes, to talk of any radical changes in Israel's stances towards the Palestinian question. For now, however, we may conclude that Tel Aviv is trying to mollify the negative world community reaction to its recent anti- Palestinian actions. Tel Aviv is banking on the fact that the eyes of the world community are increasingly being diverted towards critical events in the world, and the fate of the deported Palestinians would, therefore, be quite easily forgotten.

It is clear that in such circumstances, the Security Council should show resolve towards Israel's attempts to evade meeting the demands of Resolution 799, not only for human considerations, but also for the need to remove the [word indistinct] obstacles on the way of positive development of the peace process in the Middle East.

Official Vows To Keep Arms Exports Up to 1992 Level

PM2601144393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 93 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Hello, Weapons!" rubric: "Shooting Exports"]

[Text] This year the volume of Russia's arms exports will be no lower than last year, when they totaled around $4 billion, Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian Federation Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry, has announced. The main consumers of Russian military technology will be China and India, to which aircraft and antimissile systems are to be delivered. Russia is also trying to sell combat aircraft to Malaysia and to deliver space equipment to Indonesia. In mid-February it is planned to take part in an arms exhibition in the United Arab Emirates.

Viktor Glukhikh noted that the serious reduction in the volume of Russia's arms exports begun in the late eighties had brought the country losses of approximately $7.5 billion. Last year Russia had only a 17-percent share of world sales, while the United States had a 56-percent share.

State of Russian-Ukrainian Relations Viewed

PM2501135393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jan 93 p 2

[Article by Sergey Prokopenko and Anatoliy Polyakov: "Russia-Ukraine: Potential for Rapprochement Has Not Been Exhausted"]

[Text] The breakup of the Union and the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States can be regarded in different ways; however, one thing is sure—last year was a period of establishment and realization. One the one hand, there was the establishment of the statehood of former union republics, on the other, the realization that independence is not something that is declared but is determined first and foremost by the condition of a state's economy.

Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk scarcely anticipated when they signed the Belovezhskaya Forest Agreements how thorny the path of developing relations between the two countries would prove. And those relations have developed unevenly since the breakup of the Union—divergence giving way to rapprochement and vice versa. Like a divorced couple, the republics began feverishly dividing up the once-unified army and engaged in a tug-of-war over the Black Sea Fleet. Territorial claims began to be made. All this could, of course, be put down to the infantile disorders of young, unconsolidated statehood. But that does not, as it were, make things any easier.

However, last year did also bring with it a certain gain in experience. During that period the new states not only acquired the basic attributes of statehood but were also recognized by the world community. They were able to

ascertain their potential in the foreign policy and foreign economic spheres. Euphoria and illusion were replaced by a more modest appraisal of foreign aid potential and of their own prospects for participating in international alliances and associations. The fact that a realistic appraisal of economic potential occurred can also be regarded as a positive result of this experience. It became clear that the prospect of gaining access to foreign markets for our goods, given today's economic conditions, is a very remote one. At the same time the rupturing of economic ties deepened the crisis of the "independent" economies. This realization also led to the fact that the so-called ideologues of independence have begun to be replaced gradually by economists and pragmatists. As happened recently in Ukraine, for example.

A new cabinet led by Leonid Kuchma replaced the Vitold Fokin government, which had been marking time and, as is now obvious, had indulged in economic recklessness. What is its legacy, then?

The Fokin government had allocated credit worth more than 900 billion rubles [R] to the state sector, which increased the Ukrainian state budget deficit to 40 percent of GNP and boosted inflation, which topped 30 percent a month.

After Ukraine's ostentatious departure from the ruble zone the Russian leadership stated its intention to supply oil to the state at world prices (as it does, incidentally, to others withdrawing the ruble from domestic circulation). The situation became even worse after the Central Bank of Russia changed the settlement arrangements with the former union republics. As a result Ukrainian enterprises' debts to Russian suppliers began to mount catastrophically and, by the end of the year, were estimated at R25 billion. The upshot of this knot of problems was that supplies of oil from Russia to Ukraine fell drastically last November. The Lisichansk oil refinery, the biggest in Europe, ground to a halt. And the Kremenchug and Odessa refineries were on the verge of stopping.

Ukraine has agggravated the problems itself here, according to specialists. Not for nothing are charges of corruption in the former government being voiced increasingly loudly in the republic. For example, the state company "Ukrneftekhim," which was formed last year and was to set up joint ventures with Russian oil producers, has been accused of underhand dealings in fuel and has been wound up.

The "wholesale" conversion effected in Ukraine on 1 January 1992, which resulted in the 700 plants and design bureaus which make up the republic's military-industrial complex being left without orders, was yet another step toward the economic precipice. It was six months on before funds for financing were assigned from the budget. And they constituted less than 20 percent of the 1991 level. Let us remember that military output represented 28 percent of the total industrial output in Ukraine. So, as we can see, the ill-considered "autonomy" brought a bitter harvest.

Describing Ukraine's economy, its present prime minister, Leonid Kuchma, said that it is no longer in a state of crisis but one of catastrophe. The main causes, in his opinion, are the economic policy of the preceding cabinet, which led to almost complete collapse of the republic's financial system, and the explosive leap in energy prices, which produced price rises in almost every kind of goods and services. The current inflation rates have reached the dizzy heights of 2,000 percent per annum.

In one interview Kuchma said that Ukraine had waged war in the economy, and it had lost. The war was unleashed by politicians, but it was the economy which was punished, he stressed. Against this background, the new cabinet of ministers of Ukraine has been forced to make regular price increases to bring them up to levels which most correspond to the sharply increased expenditure.

To say that such an unpopular measure was met with understanding in the republic would be untrue. The workers of several Kiev enterprises, including the renowned "Arsenal" plant, came to parliament to demand that the new government decrees in the prices sphere be abolished. Even the incorrigible optimists of Odessa—Odessa occupied top position for price rises among Ukraine's oblasts—have become dejected. According to the assessments of the organization of trade unions, the minimum subsistence income in the city is almost double the minimum wage or pension of 4,600 coupons set by the government.

And it is no wonder, since today a kilogram of cooked sausage costs 1,000 karbovanets; a kilogram of butter 1,500; a kilogram of cottage cheese close to 500; a liter of milk around 100... The rampant prices in the state sector have also triggered a price reaction in the markets. And that is not all. A journey by city transport has gone up 10 times in price and by rail 3.5 times. A flight from Kiev to Moscow now costs 13,000 karbovanets. Given this situation, even the disciplined inhabitants of Sevastopol have not avoided spontaneous protest rallies.

The crisis phenomena in the economy have brought about a transformation of public awareness in their wake. It has turned out in actuality, after all, that no one was robbing Ukraine, as the "samostiyniky"-deputies [Ukrainian for "advocates of independence"] claimed. People have begun saying more frequently that without strong economic ties with the republics of the former USSR and Russia, in particular, toward which 70-80 percent of enmterprises' goods are geared, Ukraine will not be able to deal with the crisis.

The sociological research data of Ukraine's National Strategic Research Institute have shown that 20.8 percent of respondents were in favor of the "course of uniting the CIS republics within a single state" and 57.1 percent of respondents consider that the republic's economic difficulties are due to the politicians' power

struggle and their indifference to the needs of the people. And people are already making their choice. For example, Boris Oleynik, a champion of the friendship of the peoples and the future of the CIS, was elected a people's deputy of Ukraine without problems last November. And representatives of Rukh and other parties of a national demoocratic persuasion were supported by only 10-15 percent of voters.

A kind of political sensation occurred on the eve of 1993. Ukrainian People's Deputy Stanislav Gurenko voluntarily stood down. He stated that he was against the course of "independence at any price" under the slogan of "Het vid Rossyy" [Ukrainian for "Leave Russia well alone"] and accused Ukrainian politicians of "parochial nationalism," which will lead to economic collapse and a political deadend.

It seems that the situation has nudged the government into action and forced it to take steps to normalize bilateral economic relations with Russia. The chronicle of events of this January bears witness to this. On 13 January a package of documents aimed at maintaining and developing ties and introducing new forms of production sharing among the defense enterprises of Russia and Ukraine was signed in Kiev. On 14 January, in Moscow, Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Leonid Kuchma sat down at the negotiating table. On the same day Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia [UIER], stated that "while the political leaders of Ukraine and Russia are engaged in sorting out which of them is the greater, our countries are on the brink of economic catastrophe. If you take the overall fall in output to be 100 percent," he observed, "60 percent of that is due to the disruption of economic ties between Russia and Ukraine." "If that goes on, the complete collapse of the economies of Ukraine and Russia is inevitable," stated his counterpart, Ivan Burdak, president of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine [UIEU]. The UIEU and the UIEU have appealed to the presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, urging them to show wisdom and farsightedness and to set up realistic mechanisms of economic integration.

The Moscow meeting between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk on 15 January marked the culmination of the activated talks process. Its results for the two sides may be regarded as a compromise. At the talks Ukraine tried to resolve economic issues first and foremost, while Russia tried to resolve political ones. However, neither side got in full what they were after. And yet, in summing up, Russian President Yeltsin remarked: "We have remained friends, athough we could have broken up today."

What, then, do Russia and Ukraine have in store for them in the future?

Forecasts are a thankless occupation, although I will venture to suggest that the present meeting will mark an appreciable step toward rapprochement between the two countries and the rereestablishment of their hastily severed economic ties. After all, the fact that it was the mutual recriminations and arrogance of politicians which led to the deadlock is now being said with ever-increasing insistence in both Moscow and Kiev. Did we really have to undergo a crisis before sobering up?

Unfortunately, the views of the leadership of the republics on the future of the Commonwealth are for the time being not the same. At the press conference held after the talks in Moscow Leonid Kravchuk stressed that Ukraine will not be raising the question of leaving the CIS but merely criticizes its substance. Kiev will not be rushing to sign the Commonwealth Charter but is ready instead to prepare an economic charter. And that, in our view, can be regarded as a positive trend, since the Commonwealth without Ukraine would be like a hand without fingers.

Yes, there do seem to be bright spots in the relations between our two countries. One classical author said that a word could be pronounced with fourteen different shades of intonation. We would like the words of the Ukrainian national anthem "Shche ne vmerla Ukrayina" [Ukrainian for "Ukraine has not yet perished"] to resound with unalloyed optimism. Which, incidentally, is in Russia's interests too.

Treaty on Mutual Legal Aid Signed With Estonia

OW2601145493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [26 January] in Moscow, the Ministers of Justice of the Russian Federation, Fedorov, and Estonia, Kaido Kama, on behalf of their presidents, signed the inter-state treaty on legal aid and legal relations on civil, family and criminal matters.

The document establishes the rules for the realization and protection of the rights and legal interests of citizens of both countries in cases of property disputes, criminal investigations and the resolution of family matters. Each of the parties is obliged to recognize and implement the court rulings of the other state on civil and criminal cases.

Russia and Estonia agreed to cooperate on questions of criminal investigation of persons who commit a crime on the territory of the other state and take cover in their own country.

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Forms Unit To Oversee Ministries

MK2701092193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Chernomyrdin Brings 'Heavyweight' Ministries Under His Wing"]

[Text] A special subdivision to monitor the "heavyweight" ministries is being created in the government apparatus. As MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has learned from competent sources, this unit is being formed in great secrecy, with a very limited number of officials being allowed to work on structuring it.

All the indications are that the new government structure will be created in the image and likeness of the State-Legal Administration under the president. Around 100 people will work for it.

The special subdivision is evidently being created as a kind of counterweight to the analogous presidential structure.

Chernomyrdin To Reshuffle Team of Advisers

MK2701091993 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Premier To Be Advised by His Own People"]

[Text] The group of advisers to the Russian Government premier has been disbanded by a Chernomyrdin directive. As MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS was told at Staraya Ploshchad, this marks the beginning of radical reshuffles in the premier's staff. In particular, the chancellery will be replaced by a secretariat with a new group of advisers. Chernomyrdin will evidently select his advisers from the industrial ministries.

Chernomyrdin Changes Style of Cabinet Meetings

PM2701103393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In the Government" rubric: "Council of Ministers: New Features in Work Style"]

[Text] Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has introduced this rule: On Mondays he holds working conferences with deputy heads of government. At these business meetings the cabinet's leadership discusses work plans for the week.

Here is another new feature of the cabinet's work style: On Chernomyrdin's initiative representatives of the leadership of parliament—deputy chairmen of the Supreme Soviet and also heads of specific committees (depending on the problems being examined)—participate in government sessions on a permanent basis. When Yegor Gaydar was acting premier, representatives of parliament were involved sporadically in the cabinet's work. Their circle has now been extended, and their presence at sessions has assumed a permanent nature. What is more, parliamentarians have the right to participate in the debate.

The prime minister has also invited Yuriy Osipov, president of the Russian Academy of Sciences, to participate in government sessions.

Cabinet's Upcoming Plans, Sessions, Reports Listed

OW2601173193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tentative plans for the Russian Council of Ministers for the first quarter include eight sessions of the government.

Reports from the heads of various federal departments regarding their main goals for 1993 are scheduled for February and March. Among the ministers scheduled to give reports are those of Security and Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Economics, Finance, Atomic Energy, Transportation, and Agriculture.

In addition, it is expected that, in February, the Council of Ministers will examine the progress of the conversion plan for 1992 and corresponding plans for 1993; there will also be examination of trade and economic relations with the countries of the CIS. The cabinet's attention will also be turned toward "a reconsideration of privileges in overseas economic activity" and "the introduction of licensing in the use of natural resources." At the end of February, a speech by Labor Minister, Gennadiy Melikian, on "assurances of social rights and guarantees to workers during the period of measures being taken to restructure the economy, and support and overhaul of state enterprises."

Approval of a program of urgent measures for the stabilization and improvement of the economy written up by First Vice Premier, Vladimir Shumeyko, and his staff is also scheduled for February. In the same month, Vice Premier and State Property Committee Chairman, Anatoliy Chubais, will submit a draft law, "On Joint-Stock Companies," to the cabinet.

In March, the cabinet will concentrate on macroeconomic problems, the situations in agriculture and social affairs, and the preservation of the environment.

At the beginning of March, the government will receive a program of measures for the support of private entrepreneurship. At mid-month, the agriculture ministry will submit its program of agrarian reform for 1993-95, and

the Finance Ministry will hand over its plan of gradual reduction in subsidies to food producers.

Also at mid-month, Vice Premier, Aleksandr Shokhin, will present his program for the attraction and use of foreign credits for 1993.

At the end of March, Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Sergey Glaziev, will submit his plan for stimulating exports for government approval.

There may be changes in the cabinet's plans.

Cabinet's 25 Jan 'Working Conference' Reported

PM2601152793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Session of Russian Council of Ministers Scheduled for 28 January"]

[Text] Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin held a working conference with deputy heads of the government yesterday. According to information from the Russian Federation Government Press Center, these Monday working meetings of the cabinet leadership have become traditional. As a rule, they discuss work plans for the coming week.

The next session of the Council of Ministers is scheduled for Thursday 28 January. Two main items are included on its preliminary agenda.

The cabinet intends to hear reports from a number of leaders of federal ministries and state committees on the work done, including the ministers of the economy, finance, and foreign economic relations and the leaders of the Antimonopoly Committee, the Committee for Economic Cooperation with CIS Countries, and the State Committee for the Management of State Property.

The government also plans to discuss the draft state program for radiation rehabilitation of the Urals region and measures to assist casualties during the period through 1995.

The Government Press Center has confirmed reports that V. Chernomyrdin has been invited to address the session of parliament 28 January. But the Press Center spokesman did not give an unequivocal reply to the question of whether he will speak, because the cabinet session is scheduled for the same day.

Yeltsin Appoints Rutskoy Head of Crime Committee

LD2601174393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The RIA agency has learned from a trustworthy source in the Russian leadership that President Boris Yeltsin of Russia has signed a decree in accordance with which Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has been appointed chairman of the inter-department commission for fighting organized crime and corruption.

A session of the commission is planned for 28 January; it is proposed to be held with Rutskoy in the chair. The vice president attaches great importance to the work of this commission. He has expressed fears more than once that a mafia-governed state may be formed on the territory of Russia, which will be run by three to four clans. Observers believe that, in the next few days, Rutskoy will start to actively involve various political forces in his fight against corruption.

Today's meeting between the vice president and Vitaliy Urazhtsev, the leader of the parliamentary faction Reforms in the Army, which was held in the Kremlin, is another proof of it. RIA has learned that there Urazhtsev expressed readiness on the part of representatives of this deputies' faction to cooperate with the inter-department commission, in particular in fighting corruption in the Army.

New Commission To Coordinate All Foreign Policy Matters

OW2601163993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andry Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] From now on the interdepartmental foreign-policy commission of Russia's Security Council, not the Foreign Ministry, will coordinate international actions connected with the work of the various Russian ministries and departments. Led by the Security Council Secretary, Yuriy Skokov, the commission will also draft President Boris Yeltsin's resolutions concerning foreign-policy issues, and prepare materials for his reports to Russia's Parliament. DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent learned this from high ranking sources in the Russian leadership.

According to them, several days ago the Russian president issued instructions on the ways to ensure the activity of the interdepartmental commission, and signed a resolution on its work. The sources drew DP's attention to the fact that in this way Yeltsin actually cancelled his earlier directive, which assigned coordinating functions in the area of foreign policy to Russia's Foreign Ministry led by Andrey Kozyrev. The directive in question was signed only three months ago, in early November.

The interdepartmental commission includes the ministers of foreign affairs, defence, security, internal affairs, foreign economic relations and justice, as well as the leaders of the General Staff of Russia's armed forces, Intelligence Service, and State Committee for economic cooperation with the CIS countries, DP was told. Besides, representatives of the parliamentary committees on defence and security, on international affairs and foreign trade, Russia's Ambassador to the U.N., Yuliy

Vorontsov, and the president's adviser on foreign policy issues, Dmitriy Ryuriykov, will join the commission.

The commission is expected to convene for sessions at least once a month, or even more frequently, if necessary.

Media Issues

Chairman Comments on Yeltsin's State TV Company Edict

PM2701094793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jan 93 First Edition p 2

[Yuriy Petrovskiy report on statement by Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, under the rubric "Reporting the Details": "All-Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company Has New Status"]

[Text] An edict "On Conferring on the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company the Status of National [obshchegosudarstvennaya] Television and Radio Broadcasting Company" was signed by President B.N. Yeltsin 19 January.

Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, comments on this edict.

[Poptsov] We in the All-Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company perceive the president's edict as a step which is appropriate, timely, and necessary. Its appropriateness is already demonstrated by the fact that the president is respectfully supporting a structure established by the Russian Supreme Soviet. I think that this is an example of team work [sovmestnost] by the two branches of power in specific and important actions—despite the persistent talk about the inevitability of confrontation between them. Note that the document's first point repeats virtually entirely the formulation used by the Supreme Soviet Presidium: "The All-Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company is to be deemed a national and radio broadcasting companying representing the Russian Federation's interests in existing and newly created international television and radio broadcasting organizations." In this way the president in effect accedes to the Supreme Soviet's viewpoint.

I think that the second paragraph of this point also testifies to the appropriateness of this decree, noting that the All-Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company performs its activities in close collaboration with Russia's organs of legislative—I emphasize this—and executive power.

The document "unravels" a number of questions which were left semi-resolved when Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the then USSR President M.S. Gorbachev signed the protocol on the All-Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. This protocol laid down that Central Television's fourth channel was to be used jointly for humanitarian purposes during the transition period. Two concepts were put forward later on. Ours was unambiguously defined in the title we gave it, and which has already attracted a sizeable circle of viewers—"Russian Universities." The second alternative proposed forming another "consolidated" channel, in this respect similar to the others. Now president's edict incorporates the fourth channel fully into the All-Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company's broadcasting structure. The aims are clearly defined: Covering the progress of economic reforms, ensuring the development of enlightenment, the arts, and Russia's multinational culture, and producing a cycle of specialized programs devoted to the problems of enterprise, land reform, privatization, conversion, the tax system, and banking and insurance activity. This proves that our concept was right. And here we count on creative cooperation with our colleagues from "Ostankino."

One of the provisions of the edict is addressed to the Ministry of Communications: It is instructed to offer proposals for the development of a distribution network for All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company television programs. Unfortunately some people in "Ostankino" and in some mass media are presenting this as a covert takeover of the first channel. This is not true. We value and respect the work of our colleagues from "Ostankino" too highly to allow ourselves even to think along such lines.

Another truth is obvious for us. "Ostankino," which embodies the idea of a Commonwealth channel, an interstate channel, to a certain extent determines the fate of the CIS. Without a single information area there cannot be either a single democratic area or a single economic area. We very highly value the activity of our colleagues in creating this area.

Commentary Regrets Change in Russian TV Status

LD2601224493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] In Russia, there are not only lovers of milk but also lovers of scandals. One of them arose in connection with giving Russian Television and Radio national status. Here is Aleksandr Nekhoroshev.

[Nekhoroshev] I will uncover a terrible secret: television and radio have the same theater, the same intrigues, the same crazy rumors, which the staff simply thrive on. Insults take on the proportions of the tower of Babylon. We, who are involved in the setting up of the Russian Television and Radio are not about to get used to this, as it were. The birth of our company was not welcomed by a significant proportion of the employees of the neighboring company. Here, there was jealousy, envy, and anger and people telling tales to the president; provocations within the apparatus. God give us patience and strength so that we could continue with our business, our own quiet business. But, as the saying goes, sorting things

out internally will remain internal if the public does not hear about it. But no! On 24 January, the country's best journalist, a former employee of Russian Television, Yevgeniy Kiselev, named the best at the recent ceremony in celebration of Russian journalism - so Yevgeniy in his program "Itogi" said that Yeltsin's decree meant the transfer of the Russian TV channel to the first channel, and that the decree transferred—without legal entitlement—the control of the fourth channel to Russian TV, and that, lastly, the decree was shoved in front of the president's nose in violation of the rules for preparing such texts. I can only express regret.

Sergey Filatov, the new head of the administration of the president, on his first day at work, the day on which the decree was signed, lost his head because of the camera focused on him and refused to answer any of the hysterical questions of Kiselev. Sergey Aleksandrovich is a gentle person, whereas Yevgeniy Alekseyevich is a tough character, we do know him, thank God. It is a pity that our former colleague did not have sufficient persistence to ask our company for explanations in order to avoid clearly mendacious revelations, or to just watch a 30-minute news conference given the day before by Oleg Poptsov, our company's chairman, in which he swore on all he was worth that he would never take over the first Ostankino channel and reminded us that the fourth channel was transferred to Russia as early as September 1991 by a Yeltsin- Gorbachev protocol.

In actual fact, it is a terrible shame for our Ostankino colleagues simply in human terms. Just a few of them over there continue to work hard and honestly and to support the good name of state television and radio; a much larger number of people are moving along the corridors, gossiping and spreading rumors, causing hysteria, and playing tricks on people. You will notice that in December, when the president signed the decree on the creation of the Federal Information Center—whose remit includes Ostankino—no one cried at the fate of the small Russian TV and radio company, which was left all alone with a friendly parliament. And when the president, who established our company, signed a decree that supported it, hysteria ensued immediately, if you please. I quite understand: charity begins at home. It is a pity that the concern for this charity exceeds the concern for the so-called people, who have an natural and constitutional right to know the truth about events, including events in the corridors of the two state television and radio companies.

Yeltsin's TV Edict 'Bad for Everyone'

PM2601132193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jan 93 p 12

[Valeriy Turovskiy report: "Which Channel Is the More State Channel?"]

[Text] The other day the Russian president signed an edict "On Conferring the Status of Statewide Television and Radio Company on the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company." You might wonder what difference a name makes and what status is being conferred. Given that the information area in our country has been declared to be single, it is all the same whether it is the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company or the Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company.

But there is a difference, and a very disturbing one.

The channel four frequency, which "Rossiya" shared until recently with "Ostankino," is being transferred completely to "Rossiya." The "Ostankino" television and radio company received a registration certificate as a mass media organization to broadcast on channel four. And that certificate can be ruled invalid under Article 15 of the Law on the Mass Media "solely by a court under civil proceedings..." Solely by a court, but in no way by an edict.

This new formation is charged with the duty of representing the country's interests in international televison and radio broadcasting organizations. But international television and radio organizations do not join together on a national basis and they represent not the interests of their countries but the interests of their companies.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Communications and the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company are instructed by the presidential edict to prepare within two weeks a plan of measures "to develop the television program distribution network." A completely unrealistic deadline—both technically and creatively—for such a mighty task. It is impossible either technically or even theoretically to create a new broadcasting and distribution concept within two weeks when the old one is on its last legs.

But all these are petty details which fade away when compared with the potential consequences of implementation of the edict. According to the figures of the "Ostankino" television and radio company's sociology center, it is clear that the basic audience in Russia and the nearby foreign parts is oriented toward "Ostankino" rather than "Rossiya." For all "Ostankino's" shortcomings and the crises it has gone through, it is far more professional and creatively strong. In Moscow and St. Petersburg, for example, "Ostankino" is watched by 48 and 60 percent of viewers respectively, while "Rossiya's" figures are 17 and 15 percent. Roughly the same correlation exists in various regions of the nearby foreign parts, where they are used to "Ostankino" and are reluctant to receive "Rossiya," broadcasting local programs in its slot.

Returning to the unrealistic two-week deadline, it will prove realistic only for the execution of a simple technical procedure—switching the channels: transferring "Rossiya" to channel one and "Ostankino" to channel two. And now local broadcasters will be forced to make gaps not in Russian TV and radio but in "Ostankino," while not giving preference to "Rossiya" in so doing. The fact that the state company is being renamed a

statewide company does not make it more talented or attractive. Implementation of the edict aimed "at achieving maximum coverage of the country's population" will have the opposite effect, and in certain regions the audience could halve.

Vsevolod Vilchek, director and scientific leader of the "Ostankino" television and radio company sociology center, described this edict as a triumph of justice as defined by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: "In Russia justice is when it is equally bad for everyone." It will be bad for "Ostankino," which will rapidly lose its viewers, it will be bad for "Rossiya," which lacks the technical, creative, and staffing capability to take on two channels, and it will be worst of all for us, the viewers, deprived of the customary allocation of roles on the airwaves, when viewing likes and preferences remain in favor of "Ostankino."

Minister Views Communications' Role in Economic Growth

LD2601213593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1615 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Interview with Communications Minister Vladimir Borisovich Bulgak by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Vladimir Borisovich, world experience shows that there may only be effective economic development where communications systems have been improved. Could you tell us what the position is in the Russian Federation in this sphere at the moment and what plans your Ministry is intending to implement.

[Bulgak] As far as the size and the number of communications systems which Russia possesses are concerned, we are in the third or fourth place in the world; the United States, Japan, Germany, then Russia. As far as the density of our communications services is concerned, let's say the number of telephones, the number of communications enterprises per 100 families, as it were, or 100 individuals, we occupy somewhere between the 30th and 40th place in the world, and about the 20th in Europe. That is an objective estimate.

Why is this so? Because for a long period of time, we did not attribute sufficient importance to our communications infrastructure. So the necessity of re-examining our policies in the sphere of investment in the development of the communications branch of industry naturally arises.

We welcome foreign capital investment in all forms. But we say frankly to all of our foreign partners: Russia is a large market but Russia requires help today and requires civilized inter-relations. What does this mean? If you have invested a dollar in the development of communications facilities and earned four dollars for this one dollar in Russia, then from where we are standing, we would think that of these four dollars earned you should invest two in additional development of communications facilities in Russia, and you can take two away. But when people invest one dollar, earn four and take four out, we do not welcome this partnership as help.

[Reporter] What do you think, how does raising the communications charges affect the development of the economy, and where is the barrier beyond which begins the baneful impact of high charges on the economic reform because people may start to give up using various communications facilities and many structures will simply not be able to afford to pay for such high rates?

[Bulgak] Our dream is to make communications purely commercial, i.e. to have charges which would make it possible rapidly to develop communications facilities, but at the expense of costly services today. However, we realize that we are at a state of development of society when this will exacerbate social tensions, and so we are not doing that.

So, I think that we have not exceeded that upper limit of raising charges, and have not even got near to it yet. Well, take a postal envelope for instance, a letter is 2.50 rubles [R], that is generally considered nothing now. Remember that previously, two years ago, sending a letter cost 10-15 kopeks and a loaf of bread 13-25 kopekss. Now sending a letter is R2.50 rubles, and it will be R30 [as heard].

Proportions have sharply changed. Take the telephone. Your telephone and mine used to cost R2.50 a month, a kg of meat R2, the telephone was more than meat. Nowadays the telephone in Moscow last year cost R45, and now R106—and a kg of meat?

[Reporter] What can you say, do you now have competitors, is competition encouraged by the Ministry of Communications, and what competing structures do you see in the future and what is their possible development?

[Bulgak] For last year we allocated about 500 licenses to various persons and corporate bodies for organizing the activity of communciations, radio and television broadcasting, and postal services. To date about 250 such structures are successfully competing with state structures and in a number of regions they are simply the sole organizations ensuring communications services. I should say for example that eight international stations, international communications services are provided by private structures alongside the state structure via the telephone network on which people ring up all countries of the world. We also have private postal enterprises. A great deal of cable television has been taken into joint enterprise and private hands and a great many enterprises are engaged in business in the field of conventional television and radio broadcasting.

If we are to speak of the proportions of the services being rendered, these private structures render today around 1 to 1.5 percent compared with that which is rendered by the state enterprises. But the process is going in the right direction and is gaining momentum.

Appointments to, Statutes of Federal Information Center

Yushenkov Named Deputy Leader

OW2601163193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Well informed sources in the Russian parliament told Interfax that Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a resolution to appoint People's Deputy Sergey Yushenkov as the deputy leader of the Federal Information Center [FIC]. Mikhail Poltoranin, the former Vice Premier and Press Minister, is the leader of the FIC.

Until now Yushenkov has been one of the leaders of the radical democrats' parliamentary faction which supports the Russian President's course of reforms. Though Yushenkov was not a member of the Russian Supreme Soviet, he permanently worked in the parliamentary committee on mass media.

The creation of the Federal Information Center caused a negative reaction in the Russian Supreme Soviet. The issue concerning the FIC is on parliament's agenda. Several most stubborn adversaries of the Federal Information Center demand to petition for the verification of the constitutionality of Yeltsin's appropriate decree before the Russian Constitutional Court.

Volodin Named Deputy Head

LD2701113093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin today ordered that Vladimir Viktorovich Volodin and Sergey Nikolayevich Yushenkov be appointed to the posts of deputy heads of the Federal Information Center of Russia, the Russian president's press service has reported.

Terms Set for Personnel

PM2601153393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 2

[Directive of the President of the Russian Federation: "Questions Relating to the Russian Federal Information Center," dated 21 January 1993 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] 1. The attached Statute on the Russian Federal Information Center and its structure is hereby ratified.

2. An annual pay fund for Russian Federal Information Center personnel is to be established, totaling 48,528,000 rubles on the basis that the maximum number of workers in this apparatus is 98 persons (not counting security or buildings maintenance personnel).

3. The Russian Federal Information Center is authorized to appoint five deputy leaders, including two first deputy leaders.

4. Russian Federal Information Center personnel are to be brought in line with Russian Federation Presidential Admionistration personnel as regards pay conditions.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
21 January 1993
No. 53-rp

FIC Statute Published

PM2701104793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 2

["Statute of the Federal Information Center of Russia," and "Structure of the Federal Information Center of Russia," both "Ratified by the Russian Federation President's Directive No. 53-rp dated 21 January 1993"]

[Text] **Statute of the Federal Information Center of Russia**

1. The Federal Information Center of Russia (hereinafter the Center), formed in accordance with the Russian Federation president's edict No. 1647 "On the Federal Information Center of Russia," dated 25 December 1992, is a federal organ subordinate to the president of the Russian Federation, created for the purposes of providing information backup for the reforms and enhancing the role of the press, news agencies, and television and radio broadcasting in elucidating the state policy of the Russian Federation.

2. In its work, the Center is guided by the Russian Federation Constitution, laws of the Russian Federation, other acts of the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, edicts and directives of the president of the Russian Federation, decrees and directives of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, and by the present statute.

3. The head of the Center is appointed to and dismissed from office by the president of the Russian Federation.

4. The Center is a legal entity.

The Center has a seal bearing its name and depicting the Russian Federation State Emblem.

5. The location of the center is the city of Moscow.

6. The main tasks of the Center are:

to coordinate state policy in the sphere of the periodical press and information activity, and television and radio broadcasting;

to ensure, through the press and mass media, the prompt and extensive dissemination of accurate information on the progress of reforms in Russia, and the elucidation of Russian Federation state policy;

to collaborate with organs of legislative and executive power and with nonstate structures in the preparation of draft legislative acts and other normative documents in the sphere of the press and mass information;

to promote contacts between the Russian Federation president and the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation on the one hand and social organizations, parties, and movements on the other hand;

to analyze the prospects and directions of state policy and to forecast the results of the implementation of decisions adopted by the president of the Russian Federation and the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation;

to promote the availability of extensive information to the international community about political, economic, and cultural life in Russia, and information and cultural ties with foreign countries.

7. In order to perform its tasks, the Center:

exercises leadership of subordinate enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and coordinates the mass media's activity within the framework of the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media";

elaborates and implements projects and measures in the sphere of information backup for state policy and the reforms being implemented in the Russian Federation;

prepares draft edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president on questions connected with the Center's activity, and conducts the coordination of these drafts with the relevant organs of state administration;

in accordance with established procedure, creates in the Russian Federation and abroad structural subdivisions for the purposes of performing the tasks assigned to the Center;

requests from Russian Federation ministries, departments, organizations, and institutions the information which the Center needs to perform its tasks and activity;

conducts talks and signs protocols of intent and agreements with relevant state organs of foreign countries and representatives of foreign firms on questions that come within the Center's sphere of competence;

sets up temporary creative collectives according to established procedure and recruits specialists for consultations, including foreign specialists, using budget and non-budget appropriations for these purposes

8. The Center performs the functions and tasks assigned to it both directly and by coordinating its activity with the relevant organs of republics within the Russian Federation and local territorial organs of administration, as well as with other organs, within its sphere of competence.

9. Heads of enterprises, organizations, and institutions subordinate to the Center are appointed to and dismissed from office by the head of the Center.

10. The leader of the Center:

exercises leadership and organizes the Center's activity;

determines the structure and ratifies the Center's table of organization within the set limits for staff numbers and the wages fund;

ratifies the statutes of the Center's structural subdivisions and subordinate institutions and organizations;

appoints to and dismisses from office leaders and specialists in the Center's apparatus, ratifies relevant official instructions, and applies disciplinary action against leaders and specialists of the Center;

within the limits of his sphere of competence, issues orders and directives and ratifies instructions and other acts for mandatory implementation by all subordinate enterprises, organizations, and institutions.

11. The leader of the Center has deputies, two of them first deputies, who are appointed to office by the Russian Federation President on the basis of a proposal by the leader of the Center. Duties are distributed among the deputies by the leader of the Center.

12. The Center's activity is financed out of the Russian Federation's republic budget resources allocated for maintaining organs of state administration and other sources in accordance with legislation currently in force.

13. The Information Facilities Administration at the Administration of the Russian Federation President supplies the Center with information and computer equipment, communications, office management equipment, and programming systems.

14. Material, technical, consumer, medical, and transportation services for the Center's employees are provided by the relevant subdivisions of the Administration of the Russian Federation President, the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, and the Main Social and Production Administration of the Russian Federation President.

Structure of the Federal Information Center of Russia

Department for information backup for the reforms and coordination of the activity of federal and territorial mass media
Department for collaboration with organs of legislative and executive power, the press services of the president of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, and ministries and departments
Department for prompt news coverage of highly important sociopolitical events
Department for analysis and forecasting

Department for contacts with parties, social organizations and movements, and religious faiths
Department for information-cultural ties with foreign countries and for informing the international community about life and reforms in Russia
Department for interethnic relations and contacts with the mass media of CIS countries
Department for economics, marketing, and commerce
Secretariat
Secretarial services section
Personnel group
Computer group and typing pool
Dispatch office
Accounts office
Communications and material and technical backup service
Service for the maintenance and utilization of buildings

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Approves Agricultural Subsidies

LD2701114193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 27 TASS—Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a resolution envisaging new subsidies for Russian agriculture dominated by state and collective farms and calling to replace subsidising of producers by subsidising prices for basic foodstuffs by the end of 1993.

The resolution called "on extraordinary measures of financial support to agro-industrial complex of the Russian Federation" aims to "stabilise the financial situation of agricultural producers and promote stable work of enterprises of the agro-industrial complex".

In 1993 state subsidies will go to cattle-breeders who sell their produce to the state and will include 50 per cent of their spendings for fuel. 50 per cent subsidies are envisaged for all types of fuel and energy used to heat up houses in the countryside, as well as for the transportation of fodder for those farms which suffered from drought and other natural calamities in 1992. Bank loans are prolonged for them until December 1, 1993.

The resolution also contains a proposal to grant easy-term credits to agricultural producers. The difference in the interest rate is to be compensated from the budget. The resolution calls to discuss the question of repaying debts to agricultural enterprises for capital construction financed from the budget.

At the same time the document, signed on January 23, calls to work out the order of transition in 1993 from direct subsidies to producers to guaranteed prices for basic types of agricultural produce with gradual reduction of the volume of subsidies.

Russian ministries and departments were instructed to work out in three-month time measures to observe the balance of prices for agricultural and industrial products used in agriculture.

Some Aims of Economic Program Hard To Achieve

PM2701105593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 93 p 1

[Mikhail Berger commentary: "Government Really Wants To Control Inflation and Save Russian National Currency"]

[Text] Parliament is expecting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to deliver an extensive report in the very near future. Part of the report will be the presentation of the financial and economic policy program for 1993 which was considered by the government and adopted as a basis last week.

The program was presented to the government by Vice Premier Boris Fedorov, who prepared it with a group of government members and with the participation of Russian and foreign experts.

Strictly speaking 10 pages, albeit of very close text, is not a program but rather a summary of the most urgent measures as well as an attempt to reveal the present cabinet's economic concept. The document in question, which we present in today's IZVESTIYA in a slightly abridged version, reflects the continuity of the policy being pursued and an attempt to take maximum stock of previous mistakes and the peculiarity of the Russian economy's present state. The program is fairly practical and includes some new instruments of market regulation.

It is proposed to consider the main aims of financial and economic policy this year to be lowering the inflation rate to 5 percent per month by the end of the year, reducing the state budget deficit to 5 percent of GNP, the stabilization of the ruble, lowering the rate of decrease in production, increasing expenditure on social support, and curbing unemployment.

It should be noted that, although the document says fairly specifically by what means and in what conditions this result can be guaranteed, certain aims—such as, for example, reducing the budget deficit to 5 percent—look somewhat romantic or, to put it differently, difficult to achieve.

Furthermore, by no means all the proposals contained in the program will be rapturously received by the Supreme Soviet, the Central Bank, or simply certain interested influential groups. There is no certainty that, for example, parliament will agree with the proposal to approve the total figures for budget income and expenditure first and then consider specific items of expenditure. This procedure would benefit the budget but if adopted will force parliament to tie its own hands, as it

were. It will probably also not be easy to convince the Central Bank to raise interest rates bearing in mind current inflation: Industrialists and commercial banks are actually pressuring the Central Bank to reduce the existing cost of centralized credits.

However, the most important thing is still that the government's approval of the proposed principles is evidence that the cabinet recognizes the primacy of financial stabilization in economic policy, and that it is the ruble that is the starting point.

Privatization Revenues for '92 Twice as High as Planned

OW2601210593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2022 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Revenues from the sale of enterprises which were privatized in 1992 totalled 157 Bn [billion] rubles, more than two times the figure of 72 Bn rubles which was projected in the privatization program.

This was reported at a press conference Tuesday [26 January] in Moscow by Vice Premier and Chairman of the Russian Federation State Property Commission Anatoliy Chubays.

He acknowledged that the pace of privatizing industrial enterprises was slower than expected.

The greatest difficulties arose in the privatization of large and mid-sized industrial enterprises.

According to the State Property Commission's information, 46,815 enterprises were privatized in 1992, which is approximately 19% of all Russian enterprises. Originally the government planned to privatize about 50% of state enterprises. 2376 large and mid-size enterprises were turned into joint-stock companies in 1992.

The most successful area of privatization was in small enterprises: of 77,004 small enterprises in Russia, 27,132 (about 35%) were privatized in 1992.

Over 102,000 Russian enterprises (about 50%) applied for privatization in 1992.

Chubays connected the slow pace of privatization with initial difficulties in the bureaucratic procedures for formulating privatization documents. The vice premier is certain that the transfer of some of the State Property Commission's powers to regional property administration committees will enable the government to speed up the rate of privatization in 1993.

Concerning the general economic situation in Russia, the vice premier predicted a possible increase in unemployment in the second half of 1993. He said, "We realize that realistic measures for stopping inflation will lead to an increase in unemployment."

Provisions of Draft Economic Recovery Plan Outlined

PM2601132593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 3

["Own Information" report: "Stabilization Strategy"]

[Text] On the instructions of First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, the Russian Federation Economics Ministry has prepared a draft plan on measures to stabilize the economy in 1993. The next session of the Council of Ministers plans to examine it.

The draft proposes:

—to adopt a federal program for restructuring Russia's economy for the period through 1995;

—to step up the liability of banking establishments for delays in operations to pay bills for loaded output;

—to introduce differentiated norms for holding in reserve commercial banks' own funds in order to attract additional resources for giving credit to investment projects;

—to allow the Central Bank to continue giving targeted, preferential credit to defense industry enterprises and organizations being converted;

—to prepare legislative acts to step up liability for illegal strikes in transportation and also for violations of the procedure for selling goods;

—to exempt textile and light industry enterprises in all forms of ownership from the mandatory sale on the currency market of part of the currency proceeds from exporting output, if they are channeled into purchasing raw materials and subassemblies and repaying foreign credits;

—to establish customs control over exports of agricultural produce, foodstuffs, and industrial household and domestic products outside the country in order to protect the Russian consumer;

—to continue the system of subsidizing stockraising produce;

—to grant collective farms, state farms, and other agricultural enterprises state credit to replenish working capital on the security of their property.

Chubays: No Changes in 1993 Privatization Plans

LD2601133593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—"We do not intend to make any principal changes in the ideology behind the state privatisation programme this year," Chairman of the Russian State Property Committee Anatoliy Chubays told a news conference here today.

Chubays summed up the results of last year's privatisation campaign and said that tangible results had been achieved. By January 1, 1993, nearly 46,000 state-owned enterprises had been sold off, half of them to their work collectives. Twice as much money as planned was generated by the sales—150 billion roubles. The money will be used to provide social support to the population, local budgets and other projects.

Chubays said a solid foundation has been laid and all conditions had been created for a mass-scale privatisation, including corporatisation of major enterprises. Privatisation cheques (vouchers) were issued and more than 95 per cent of the population have already received them. Plants and factories are ready to sell their share. Financial infrastructure is being developed —more than 300 voucher investment foundations have been established. It is not accidental that a decision has been made to corporatise more than 5,600 enterprises this year. The first voucher auctions were held last December to enable any participant to invest his voucher.

Chubays said that vouchers will continue to be issued until the end of this year to certain categories of the population, including those who are doing their national duty abroad. Another proposal is to distribute vouchers which have not been demanded by owners among people with low incomes. "A document to this effect is now being drafted", Chubays said.

As concerns the sell-off of the social facilities of enterprises, chubays noted that the Russian president had issued a decree in late December 1992 in accordance with which the new status will primarily be granted to housing, shops and every-day services which are located on the premises of enterprises, and some other installations.

"It is necessary to take into account the view of the work collective and the final decision must be taken with due account of the collective's opinion, Chubays said.

Meanwhile, in Moscow alone 8.5 million privatisation vouchers have already been distributed (96.03 per cent of the total number of eligible citizens). According to Vladislav Butov, chairman of the central city commission for vouchers, two tasks have been accomplished. Vouchers have been issued to Muscovites and refugees, and a consultancy system has been established. As concerns the third task—the creation of a voucher investment market—this task has yet to be accomplished. The Moscow Government is now setting up a subcommission to work out a specific programme for investing privatisation cheques in land, municipal real estate and other projects.

Referendum & Other Issues

Opinion Poll Tests Attitudes Toward Referendum

PM2601162993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 4

[Article by Leonid Sedov of the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center: "April Approaching, but Still No Formula"]

[Text] It is more than a month since the seventh congress of Russian people's deputies decided to hold a referendum on 11 April 1993 on the foundamentals of the new Russian Constitution. The decision was brought into effect the other day by a Russian Supreme Soviet decree.

But as the day of the referendum approaches, the form in which the question as to what kind of state they want to see will be presented to Russians is not becoming any clearer, but is becoming rather more mysterious. At the congress itself the alternatives appeared to be pretty clear: presidential authority or the authority of the soviets. But the post-congress debate and the statements at various levels of the political establishment are becoming increasingly reminiscent of a children's guessing game and this is bound to affect the mood of the Russian citizens.

A 15 January 1993 poll of the country's city-dwellers (20 cities, 1,490 respondents), conducted by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center [ARPORC], indicated the basic trends that determine the changes in Russians' attitudes toward the upcoming referendum. In the first place, there was a pretty big, seven percent, increase in the number of those who did not know when asked whose line, president's or congress', they were prepared to support. Add to this the three-percent increase in the number of people who actually said they would not participate in the referendum and you find that the number of politically passive people has passed the danger mark of one-half of the population. If the process continues in that direction, the referendum will be in danger of being sunk. The data show that the declining interest in the referendum has affected all social and age groups equally and only the military found a contrary trend (36 percent nonparticipants and undecided compared with 41 percent in December).

Another important fact that arises out of the analysis of the poll results is that the decline in the number of potential referendum participants is taking place chiefly in the camp of the president's supporters, which has been reduced by one-fourth: from 41 percent to 30 percent. And although the president's camp is still twice as powerful as the congress cohort (in the big cities this superiority is even more marked, as IZVESTIYA has already reported), the balance has somewhat shifted in favor of the congress (in December there were four supporters of the congress to 10 supporters of the president; in January the former figure is five).

The aforementioned correlation is continuing to deteriorate very significantly as far as the president is concerned among employees with specialized education (22:18; in December it was 38:14) and among students (25:18; in December—39:13). The strengthening of the congress' positions among young students will sound the alarm for the supporters of radical reforms. Another dangerous symptom apparently indicative of growing dissatisfaction with presidential authority in an area where this authority has hitherto enjoyed the most

support—among entrepreneurs—is the fact that it was here that the loss of support was heaviest (22 points down on December): partly in favor of the congress (rising from 4 percent to 11 percent), but chiefly in favor of nonparticipation in the referendum (from 23 percent to 32 percent).

The future evolution of people's views of the referendum, and their participation in it largely depends both on the general development of events in the country and on what kind of referendum formula they are offered. The answer to the question "What is better: to submit for the referendum two alternative draft Constitutions (from the president and the Supreme Soviet) or a single, agreed draft Constitution?" shows that at the moment public opinion is tending toward the second solution: 42 percent for the single option, 26 percent for the alternative, with 31 percent don't-knows (in this case, O. Rumyantsev, with his proposal for a single, unchallenged option, is tuning in to the majority tendency). A detailed analysis reveals that people with higher education (40 percent), entrepreneurs (45 percent), the military (41 percent), all age groups of young people (33-37 percent), and supporters of the president (36 percent), that is, groups that are more socially active and capable of influencing the political process, tend more toward a deliberate, responsible choice in the referendum. They are opposed by groups that prefer to see a nationwide rubber-stamping of a text agreed "on high." They are the less educated and less politically involved strata (although, prominent among them is a group of leaders and managers who are also fond of actions agreed by the bosses). Naturally, the proportion of those in favopr of a single text is high (56 percent) among congress supporters. The compromise option gives them the chance to avoid what would be for them a no-win nationwide confrontation with the president.

Gorbachev, Rutskoy, Khasbulatov To Testify in Coup Trial

LD2601154093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By KRIM-PRESS correspondent Nikolay Semenenko for TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Jan—Mikhail Gorbachev, Ruslan Khasbulatov, Aleksandr Rutskoy, Rafik Nishmanov, and a number of other statesmen and politicians of Russia and the former USSR will be summoned to testify during the trial of the SCSE (State Committee for the State of Emergency).

The initial phase of the trial is set to begin on April 14, and it is planned to question about 120 witnesses. More will be called if necessary. This was announced at a news conference today by Anatoliy Ukolov, the deputy chairman of the military collegium of the Russian Supreme Court. He was appointed to head the investigation into the August 1991 coup attempt.

Asked whether the liberty of witnesses, and of Mikhail Gorbachev in particular, would be restricted for the duration of the court proceedings, Ukolov replied that this would not be the case. The court is assuming that all persons called to testify are law-abiding citizens and that there is no need to restrict their movements, he explained. Moreover, existing criminal law and legal rules provide for appropriate action against any person failing to attend a court hearing.

The chairman of the SCSE case also announced that final selection of the lay assessors for the trial has not yet taken place. A total of 18 names have been proposed.

According to members of the military collegium of the Russian Supreme Court also present at the news conference, the court sittings will be open to press and public alike. The number of persons attending will, however, be restricted by the capacity of the courtroom.

Yeltsin May Be Called as Witness

LD2601191993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1900 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin may be called as a witness to testify in a trial of the plotters of the 1991 August failed coup scheduled for April 14.

Anatoliy Ukolov, deputy head of the Military Board of the Russian Supreme Court, said Yeltsin was included in the list of potential witnesses, adding, however, that he did not consider it necessary to summon Yeltsin to court hearings.

Ukolov said a total of 120 witnesses are expected to be called to testify, including former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Russian Parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and other high-ranking politicians.

Ukolov said no restrictions on the movement of witnesses, including Gorbachev, will be imposed. He added, however, strict measures will be taken against those who refuse to give testimony.

He said the list of judges has yet to be decided. They will be chosen from among 18 candidates named for the trial.

Court hearings will be public, but the number of people allowed into the court room will be limited by its size.

Supreme Soviet

Some Yeltsin Amendments to Army Law Rejected

PM2601172393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin report under the "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Awaiting the President's Signature. Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Has Examined Amendments to the Law 'On the Status of Servicemen'"]

[Text] On Friday [22 January] afternoon the Russian Supreme Soviet examined the law "On the Status of Servicemen" which had been sent back by the president. A total of 41 presidential amendments were presented. The formulator of the law—the Committee for the Affairs of the Disabled, War and Labor Veterans, and Social Protection for Servicemen and Members of Their Families—instructed parliament to adopt 34 of them.

Committee Chairman Aleksandr Korovnikov noted that "we can only thank the president for these amendments; they improve the law."

The parliamentary committee proposed to reject seven amendments put forward by the Russian Federation president. Specifically, the proposal to set out points 2 and 3 of Article 8 ("Freedom of Conscience and Religion") in the following manner was turned down: "Commanders and chiefs are obliged to ensure the constitutional right of servicemen to freedom of conscience and religion, which, taking into account the restrictions and requirements of general military regulations indicated in the present article, includes giving them the opportunity to participate in religious services, make personal use of religious literature and objects, and also have contact with ministers of the appropriate faiths." Deputies voted twice on this amendment, but the original wording of the law remained unchanged: "The state has no duty to satisfy any requirements servicemen might have in connection with their religious convictions and their need to attend religious services. The formation of religious associations within military units is not permitted."

The proposal to reduce the leave of servicemen on compulsory service from 15 to 10 days was also rejected. At first they would not even adopt a fifth amendment which merely stated the right of servicemen and their families to "acquire industrial goods and foodstuffs at concessionary prices through the military trade network," but unlike the wording in the law, the amendment did not make it clear where these concessionary prices were going to come from. The law, however, stipulated that they would come from "ensuring that military trade is supplied on a priority and concessionary basis (without levying value-added tax) with resources earmarked for state needs, and also by exempting military trade enterprises providing services for servicemen from value-added tax and income tax." In an emotional speech, however, Committee for Social Policy Chairman Mikhail Zakharov, the longtime opponent of "defense" laws, persuaded parliament to reexamine this amendment. It was adopted after another vote. Two other amendments were also passed. One makes clear the terms for sending servicemen off for a checkup and inpatient examination in connection with nervous disorders. The other makes provision for the payment of a single sum—equivalent to 60 months' cash wages—instead of the differential payment of a one-shot allowance (for three groups of disabilities) in cases where the disability is acquired during fulfillment of the duties of military service or at military musters.

On Tuesday 26 January, the text of the law "On the Status of Servicemen" will be sent to the Russian Federation president for signing. The law comes into force with effect from 1 January 1993.

The president's amendments to the other law that was returned from the "military package" have also been examined—"On Additional Privileges for Servicemen Performing Active Military Service on the Territory of the Transcaucasus, the Baltic States, and the Republic of Tajikistan, and Also Carrying Out Tasks To Protect the Constitutional Rights of Citizens in State of Emergency Conditions." This too is merely awaiting the president's signature.

Air Defense Chief Gives Briefing on Service's Problems

PM2601160193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Ivanov report under the "Events and Commentary" rubric: "Commander in Chief Prudnikov on Problems of Russia's Air Defense"]

[Text] The speech by Colonel General Viktor Prudnikov, commander in chief of Air Defense Forces, at the Supreme Soviet was prompted by a deputies' question in connection with unauthorized filming by a group from the "Politburo" television program at one of Moscow region's air defense facilities.

Upon analyzing the reasons for the aforementioned violation, Col. Gen. Viktor Prudnikov placed some highly alarming information before the parliamentarians about the current position of Air Defense Forces.

In particular, he noted that units and subunits' average strength levels made up from compulsory service recruits constitutes a total of just 50 percent of the requirement, and that this indicator is even lower in a number of garrisons. There is a particularly difficult situation in units and subunits located in Russia's inner regions. Some subunits have only four or five men out of a prescribed staffing level of between 45 and 50 compulsory service soldiers and sergeants. And if you consider that, in addition to alert duty, they must also perform tasks to do with the everyday activities of subunits, then, naturally, it is very difficult to organize the appropriate type of protection for facilities.

Under these conditions, the duties of junior soldiers on guard alert are being carried out by officers—men with a high professional training in the sphere of radioelectronics, having graduated from higher military schools and academies.

The commander in chief cited some very alarming statistics. In Moscow Air Defense District alone, guards protecting facilities were forced to use weapons on 108 occasions last year. As a result, three people died.

What is the solution to the situation which has developed?

The protection and defense of facilities could be guaranteed by laying mine fields around them, and rigging fences with a high-voltage electric current. But opting for these extreme measures in one's own country, in peacetime, and in densely populated areas, means causing numerous accidental deaths. There is no doubt that this cannot be done.

Obviously, what is needed is an extensive publicity campaign in the mass media, but not a quest for sensational facts and the creation of additional problems. Likewise, relevant legislative acts are required to ensure legal liability for any deliberate intrusion by unauthorized persons onto the territory of military facilities.

Col. Gen. Viktor Prudnikov also spoke in favor of the need to urgently adopt a law on the state border, which must specify the tasks of Air Defense Forces.

Without the aid of the Supreme Soviet, it will also be difficult for the military to cope with solving a problem of vital importance to the defense and security of Russia—the preservation of a unified ballistic missile early warning system. As we know, most of its elements are currently on the territory of what are now sovereign states, and it has not always been possible to reach agreement on their use with these states' governments.

The commander in chief also noted that Russia's air defense was weakened as a result of the nationalization of a number of large strategic formations and combined units, and their transfer to sovereign republics. Air space, especially along the state border, is not guaranteed to be reliably covered and monitored everywhere.

In a bid to better resolve the set tasks, a number of specific measures have been adopted. It is planned to pool the efforts of air defense forces from all the armed services under a unified leadership, guaranteeing maximum usage of the potential of all available resources within the framework of a unified Russian Air Defense system.

In the current situation, one cannot but be concerned by the fact that, in the context of reforming the Armed Forces, various approaches and proposals have been submitted to the Supreme Soviet, including those envisaging the liquidation of the unified Air Defense Forces leadership, and the dissipation of men, equipment, and weapons in certain regions. This, the commander in chief believes, may significantly reduce both the system's efficiency and Russia's defense capability. Similar experiments also took place in the early eighties. But in 1986, the former Union and Armed Forces leaderships realized that the decisions adopted were wrong, and they were forced, at a substantial financial and material cost, to revert to a single Air Defense system.

Regional Affairs

Chechen Prepares for 'Major' Military Exercises

OW2601190293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chechnya is preparing to launch major military exercises in the near future under the code name "Eastern Shield." Interfax learned from informed sources that the sixth brigade of self-defense forces will participate in the exercises, as will the "presidential berets" rapid deployment forces and border troops.

The main goal of the exercises is to improve the military divisions' joint activities and to test the preparedness of the sixth brigade divisions to defend the republic against approaches from the east (on the border with Ingushetia, where Russian troops are located - IF [INTERFAX]).

Russian Troops in Control of North Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD2701120893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanaev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 27 TASS—Units of the Russian peacekeeping force are fully controlling the situation in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. According to the information of the headquarters of the provisional administration in the region, no shooting, attacks on army units, military townships, guarded economic facilities or check points were registered there during the past 24 hours.

At the same time, the crime situation continues to be very grave in North Ossetia and Ingushetia. The main reason for it is that a lot of fire arms and ammunition remain in possession of the population. During the past 24 hours alone officers of the Russian Interior Ministry investigation group confiscated five grenades, two zinc boxes with shells for grenade launchers, seven fire arms and cartridges of various calibres after inspecting 1,510 automobiles on the territory on North Ossetia. 76 people were arrested for violating the curfew and the state of emergency regime. Squads of the Russian Interior Ministry troops toughened control over passenger and suburban trains, as well as over the Vladikavkaz airport.

According to reports from Nazran, no armaments or ammunition were found during the inspection of 300 cars.

Chechen State Delegation Arrives in Moscow

OW2601183093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A state delegation from Chechnya arrived in Moscow Tuesday [26 January] to develop and initial a Russian-Chechen accord on the delimitation and mutual delegation of powers between the two republics. The decision to do so was reached during Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray's visit to Groznyy on January 14.

Bek Mezhidov, first deputy chairman of the Chechen Parliament, is heading the delegation. On the insistence of Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, the delegation will also include State Secretary Aslanbek Agbulatov.

Parliamentary Deputy Zelimkhan Yandarbeyev, who leads the group of Chechen experts preparing the accord, announced on television in Groznyy that he will not accept the version of the accord "On the delimitation and mutual delegation of powers." He feels it is necessary to form an interstate accord based on a relationship in which both parties would have equal rights.

First Results Said Reassuring

OW2601204493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2018 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [26 January] the representatives of the parliamentary-governmental delegations of the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic began their negotiations behind the closed doors in Russia's House of Soviets.

In his exclusive interview with Interfax Ramazan Abdulatipov, a member of the Russian delegation and the speaker of the Russian Supreme Soviet Council of Nationalities, reported that the three-day negotiations will be devoted to the discussion of issues connected with the development of a treaty about division and mutual delegation of authorities between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic.

According to Abdulatipov, the treaty will contain three parts. They will reflect issues concerning joint authorities of the republics and the exceptional authorities of the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic.

On Tuesday the parties developed provisions for experts who will continue their work the next day, Abdulatipov reported.

On Thursday the delegations will meet again. According to the assessment of the Council of Nationalities speaker, "the results of the first day of the negotiations are reassuring. At the same time he expressed concern that during the negotiations the parties "will face enormous difficulties because during a year and a half politicians have voiced many different statements and it will be difficult for the politicians to refuse from them."

Abdulatipov drew attention to the fact that before the beginning of the negotiations the leadership of the Russian Federation has positively solved the issue to restore the air traffic between Moscow and Grozny, the Chechen capital. The issue concerning pensions for the population of this republic has also been solved.

The Russian-Chechen negotiations were started in accordance with an agreement reached in Groznyy on January 14 during the tour of Vice Presidents Sergey Shakhray and Ramazan Abdulatipov to Chechnya.

Chechen's Dudayev Returns Home From Turkey

OW2601165993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andry Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] News media reports concerning the Chechen President Dzhokar Dudayev's visit to Turkey need to be corrected, the Turkish embassy's counsellor for political issues, Ahmet Erozan, told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent in Moscow. He dismissed the rumors that Dudayev conferred with Turkey's defence minister recently. As for his contacts with President Turgut Ozal, "General Dudayev was received as a private citizen, and the meeting was unofficial," the diplomat said.

Erozan declined to comment on Dudayev's statement made in Ankara as to his willingness to send Chechen volunteers to Bosnia-Hercegovina to protect the Muslim population of former Yugoslavia, "if Turkey wished it." "Dudayev's statement is his own affair," the Turkish embassy official said.

Dudayev stopped in Ankara on his way to The Hague (the Netherlands), where he intended to join the recent assembly of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), which is sometimes referred to as an alternative to the U.N.

The Dutch authorities denied him [an] entry visa, and the Chechen leader had to end his journey in Ankara. Upon his return home the general announced his intention to file a protest against what he described as the Netherlands' failure to honor its commitment to ensure proper work for the UNPO. Dudayev urged the UNPO members to consider the possibility of moving the organization's headquarters from The Hague to another city, such as Chechnya's capital, Grozznyy.

Moscow Mayor Holds News Conference on Year's Results

LD2501215393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov held a news conference today on the results of the past year. He also shared his plans for the future. The Moscow mayor's office began this year with an unpopular step: gas prices

in the capital were raised. This had been preceded by a statement by the press center of the Moscow mayor's office that prices would not be raised. Our correspondent Aleksandr Lutskiy put a question to the mayor's Press Secretary (?Sergey Tsou) on this discrepancy. The reply was as follows: the decision was made by the Russian Government, and the Moscow mayor's office obeyed it. And now other news from the Moscow mayor's office.

[Unidentified correspondent] We do not intend to play any political games, we have enough economic concerns, the Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov stated today at a news conference devoted to the results of the year. What is of prime concern to the people? Housing, food, security—the Moscow government has exerted, and intends to exert in the future, maximum efforts to resolve these issues. Last year, more than 3 million square meters of housing were built, new subway stations, schools, hospitals, kindergartens were commissioned, and those sections of the population lacking social protection were not forgotten: pensioners are receiving supplements to their pensions, the parents of preschoolers are getting monthly subsidies, and students are also receiving financial support. The city is supplied with potatoes and vegetables, and there are things to buy in the shops. Militia staffing has been beefed up.

[Begin Luzhkov recording] Of paramount importance for Moscow in 1993 is the problem of the relentless fight against crime. There can be no other options than the total and responsible efforts of the city authorities to solve the problems of food supplies. If we win the battles at an economic level, we will be supported by all the people of our city. [end recording]

Moscow Mayor, Chernomyrdin Discuss City Budget

LD2601155193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and members of the capital's government are tackling the problem of the municipal budget with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today. The sum of 920 billion rubles [R] needed by the city in 1993 still lacks any real substantiation, the Moscow mayor noted this morning at a meeting of the government. He said that the city is counting on higher deductions from value added tax than the five percent previously proposed by the Russian Government. Also, Moscow is due R180 billion for carrying out the functions of the capital.

The mayor expressed regret that it is necessary to wring out what is due, like in the old days of stagnation.

Moscow Communists on RSFSR Communist Party Revival

PM2601170393 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under the rubric "Revival of Russian Communist Party": "Moscow: Arguments Continue"]

[Text] The Moscow CPSU City Committee Information Bureau has issued a statement that it supports in every way the process of restoring the RSFSR Communist Party, regarding it as an integral part of the CPSU. There are no grounds for opposition between the two parties: The primary organizations of the RSFSR Communist Party and the CPSU on the territory of Russia are identical. The attempt to create the "Communist Party of Russia outside the CPSU" is a repetition of the method of splitting the Communist Parties of Lithuania and Estonia. The information bureau has proposed to the organizational committee preparing the 29th Extraordinary Conference of the Moscow City Organization of the RSFSR Communist Party that a unified conference be held on 30 January to agree on positions on contentious issues.

Tatarstan Wants Treaty With Russia Before Referendum

LD2701090493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0644 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan January 27 TASS—Tatarstan wants to sign a bilateral share-power treaty with Russia before the referendum on the basics of the constitution scheduled for April 11, otherwise the republic within the Russian Federation may not participate in it, according to President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev.

"If we do not reach an accord before the referendum we shall have no basis to work with the population on the questions of the referendum. We have to give an answer to the basic issues of relations with Russia so that the people of Tatarstan know what they are voting for," Shaymiyev said at a press conference.

Tatarstan proclaimed national sovereignty and said it wants to regulate relations with the federation by bilateral agreements. This, however, is not envisaged by acting constitution.

Shaymiyev is evidently fearing that the basics of a new constitution would not allow it either.

Among the issues yet to be agreed by Tatarstan and Russia the president listed Russian powers in Tatarstan, taxation policy, banking system, investments and security issues.

He added that now it is important to work on the draft of the bilateral treaty at the top level and meetings with President Boris Yeltsin should be held once or twice a month.

International Affairs

Presidents Clinton, Kravchuk Discuss Bilateral Relations

LD2601201493 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] U.S. President Clinton telephoned Ukrainian President Kravchuk today on bilateral relations. The U.S. President confirmed the U.S. Administration's intentions on allocating to Ukraine at least $175 million for the destruction and dismantling of nuclear missiles. The Ukrainian and U.S. Presidents agreed that in the near future, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko and the U.S. secretary of state will establish direct contact as soon as possible with the aim of holding consultations and talks on a whole range of issues of mutual interest.

Legislature, Commissions Discuss Adoption of START

WS2601133293 Kiev UKRAINIAN BUSINESS NEWS in Russian 20 Jan 93 p 2

[Article by Olga Musafirova: "'We Will Bury You' From Kiev?"]

[Text] The START-I treaty and the accompanying world scandal should be regarded as a blessing for the Ukrainian administration. The combination of the popular principle "spare no efforts to avoid war" with worries about the Russian-American imperial designs concerning Ukraine, creates the proper concentration of the fire-damp of fear and anger. The society that lives with this kind of energy may demand that the top officials not only refrain from signing the CIS Charter, but also pronounce the notorious "we will bury you" from some Western platform. Thus failures of politicians, diplomats, and economists can be turned into victories at the home front.

The American mass media were quite critical in evaluating the three-day long visit of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk to Washington aimed at explaining Ukraine's stance on nuclear disarmament and Kravchuk's 3 January address. Tarasyuk felt hurt by IZVESTIYA, which conveyed the general moods expressed in the American press. The American press also expressed its bewilderment at Ukraine's financial claims. At the beginning, Ukraine demanded $175 million, a big sum even for a prosperous country like the United States. Then Ukraine increased the sum up to $1.5 billion. At the same time the official American press pointed out that these demands had not been accompanied by any expert calculations. This is why the publications scornfully suggested that after receiving the "nuclear subsidies" Ukraine could use them for the revival of its weak economy. Besides, it was emphasized that the Ukrainian ban on the ratification of START-I might have negative consequences for the fate of START-II. If every signatory introduces its own amendments, the document might be turned into a total mess. Ukraine's stance might result in giving it the status of an international outcast and place it in the same row with Iraq which is striving to acquire access to nuclear warheads. This may lead to a number of international restrictions and bans.

Although Deputy Minister Tarasyuk assured the UKRAINIAN BUSINESS NEWS correspondent about "refraining from any additional financial compensation claims," he supported the necessity for security guarantees on the side of the United States, England, and France as a condition for the ratification of the treaty by the Supreme Soviet. The United States stance is diametrically opposite—such guarantees can be given based only on the results of the voting.

Tarasyuk gave his interview an hour before the consultative conference with the delegation of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened at the initiative of Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The deputy minister was reluctant to give any premature comments. He only said: "I hope that the visitors have brought some additional information which will make the ratification of START-I easier for the Ukrainian legislature." He also confirmed the information on a conference of Russian and Ukrainian plenipotentiary representatives dedicated to "the same issues." Among "the same issues" probably are the location of strategic missile destruction sites and the procedure for returning Ukraine enriched nuclear fuel to be used for electric power production.

The second decade of January was marked by active work of the Supreme Soviet Commission for Foreign Affairs on the text of the START-I treaty (3 volumes, 600 pages), received by Kiev a month and a half ago. At the very start, the commission separated it from the Lisbon Convention on Non Proliferation of Nuclear Arms, calling the latter "premature under the current situation." What concerns START-I, eight commission members voted in favor of its Supreme Soviet ratification in February, with one vote against. But security guarantees on the side of the nuclear powers, subsidies for the destruction of the missiles, as well as compensation for the nuclear contents of the warheads remain the condition for the ratification. (The uranium and plutonium contents of the self regulated self-guidance units can be sold at a high price. Besides Ukraine, unlike Russia or the United States, owns the liquid and solid-propellant SS-18 missiles.)

Nonetheless, the commission concluded that the treaty will be ratified, even if we consider the balance of forces between the "hawks" (headed by Khmara and Porovskyy) and the military (General Tolubko) on one side, and the advocates of unconditional disarmament on the other, which exists in the Supreme Soviet. The strongest "moderate" faction in the legislature treats nuclear arms ("which of course we should get rid of") as a commodity of extreme economic and military value.

As was expected, all the parties considering themselves more or less important, raised their voices in the discussion on the nuclear issue. Among them the UNA [Ukrainian National Assembly] declaration stands out. The UNA has found accomplices among "a certain part of the military" (unnamed) and the management of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences: Paton, Baryakhtar, and Pasichnyk and suggested convening the conference "The Nuclear Status of Ukraine As the Best Guarantee of Peace, Security, and Stability in Europe."

This issue has stirred emotions and has become the Number One issue with all the mass media (including our newspaper).

At the same time, another important document awaits discussion: the Cabinet of Ministers program on overcoming the crisis, but it does not get the due attention of the legislature. Yet, as old fairy tales put it—this is a different story.

Guests Searched at U.S. Embassy Inauguration Party

AU2701134093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Jan 93 p 11

[Commentary by HOLOS UKRAYINY unidentified special correspondent: "You've Come on a Visit? Turn Out Your Pockets ...."]

[Text] **Just imagine: You have been invited to come on a visit. When you, in a good mood, come to the hosts in order to share with them the joyous event, you are asked to turn out your pockets and are thoroughly searched with the help of special equipment. What do you do?**

Of course you feel that your mood has been spoiled, and you are indignant because there is no procedure that is more humiliating for any person. You probably immediately leave your hosts' house, who, while caring about their own security [sentence incomplete as published]

This is precisely what happened at the Embassy of the United States of America, to which the ambassador had invited a number of guests to celebrate the inauguration of U.S. President Clinton. Near the door, they were lined up, required to enter the lobby in twos only, and thoroughly searched. I do not think that there were terrorists or Kiev racketeers among the guests. In all probability, such types had not been invited to come to the American Embassy. People's deputies, diplomats, journalists, and public figures who are well known in Ukraine and in Kiev came to visit Mr. Popadyuk. All of a sudden... their pockets were searched.

Of course, there exist security regulations. They differ from country to country. However, this is probably universally true: If you don't trust somebody, don't invite him to come to your home.

To avoid the humiliation of the search, some of the invited people's deputies turned right round at the entrance to the U.S. Embassy and went home.

One thing is of interest: Does His Excellency know how his guests were treated on that festive day for the United States?

Russians Apologize for Attack on Ukrainian Facility

PM2601124393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jan 93 pp 1,2

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Misunderstanding on Cape Feolent in Crimea Settled. Russian Sailors Have Apologized to Ukrainian Antiaircraft Gunners"]

[Text] ITAR-TASS, quoting Captain 3d Rank Andrey Grachev, deputy chief of the Black Sea Fleet press center, has reported that on the night of 20-21 January a sabotage and intelligence gathering subunit of the Black Sea Fleet's marine shore force made an attack in error on an antiaircraft missile battalion of a Ukrainian Armed Forces air defense brigade in the course of planned exercises in their combat training.

Eight marines under the leadership of a lieutenant were set the task of simulating an attack on a Black Sea Fleet communications center in the region of Cape Feolent, alongside which there was an antiaircraft missile battalion of a Ukrainian air defense brigade. In the darkness, the intelligence officers got the military facilities which were situated nearby mixed up, and simulated an attack against the battalion instead of against the communications center, penetrating the unit. The marines shot off several blanks and neutralized [neytralizovali] the subunit's personnel.

At the moment the Fleet's command is carrying out an investigation of the incident. A Fleet press center staffer emphasized that the Black Sea Fleet's staff adheres strictly to the Yalta and Dagomys agreements on the Black Sea Fleet. In this case, he said, there was no ill intent, and what happened was actually an unfortunate error, as the facilities of the Black Sea Fleet's coastal infrastructure and the Ukrainian Armed Forces are all mixed up in the Crimea, and servicemen at times find it difficult to get their bearings as regards the military units' changing national ownership.

An IZVESTIYA military observer was told at administrative offices of the Naval shore units' commander that an unfortunate misunderstanding had taken place at Cape Feolent near Sevastopol. A planned exercise took place there in the vicinity of a marine platoon under Lieutenant Vadim Klimenko's leadership.

According to the exercise plan, this should have taken place during the evening next to the point where the Fleet's marine brigade was stationed and completed by one o'clock in the morning. The intelligence officers were set the task of approaching the battalion of shore

units without penetrating into its territory, and to carry out surveillance of the sailors' and other specialists' movements using optical devices.

In the course of these exercises in the pitch dark, the marines gripped by the excitement of the training battle—they were using imitation explosive charges and firing blanks from assault rifles—got the facilities confused and instead of ending up on the territory of the battalion of shore units ended up in a cantonment, among the barracks and depot of a Ukrainian Armed Forces antiaircraft missile battalion.

The Lieutenant saw that there were soldiers and not sailors in front of him, realized his mistake, and ordered his men to turn back.

The Naval shore units' headquarters assured the editorial office that the antiaircraft missile battalion's personnel had not been "neutralized" at all, that no premeditated attack had taken place on it either; the battalion's operational sites had remained well to one side and there can be no question of there having been an encroachment upon them.

In the morning the Russian marines came and apologized to Ukrainian antiaircraft defense's soldiers. The unfortunate incident was, as they say, settled at a local level. But the ripples from it will, no doubt, continue to be felt for a long time in the tense situation which has developed in the Crimea and which has not yet been resolved.

Russian Ambassador Meets Sevastopol Leaders

LD2601192893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1857 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Sevastopol January 26 TASS—Russian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ukraine Leonid Smolyakov met today Sevastopol heads and the command of the Black Sea fleet and the Ukrainian navy.

The ambassador, currently on a working trip to the Crimea, listened to speeches of members of the board of the Sevastopol People's Deputies Council and the City State Administration and a representative of the Ukrainian president on the situation in Sevastopol and the fleet, and answered their questions on the Russian stand on the Crimea, Sevastopol and the fleet, as well as the Russian government's social and economic assistance to the city.

After the meeting, Smolyakov told correspondents about the need for a soonest inter-governmental solution to a problem of Sevastopol provision with energy. He stressed the Russian observation of the principle of Ukrainian territorial integrity.

A picket, carrying slogans on the need to pass over Sevastopol to Russia and indivisibility of the Black Sea fleet, was placed by the Sevastopol Committee of the National Salvation Front near the building of the City People's Deputies Council, where the meeting was held.

Kravchuk Urges Developing Aviation Industry

LD2601210193 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] An important event took place today at the collective of the Antonov aviation scientific and technical complex. Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk was there.

[Reporter] A significant event in the life of the collective of the Antonov scientific and technical complex took place today. (Tatyana Anukhina), chairman of the Interstate Aviation Committee, presented two certificates: one for the right to build civil aircraft, and the other for the flight-worthiness of the AN-124-100 airplane, the civil version of the well-known Ruslan. [passage omitted]

[Begin Kravchuk recording, in Russian] We have created a powerful, let us say, aviation and missile technology. We have complexes, such as the Ulyanovsk complex, the Kiev one, Baykonur, the Kazakhstan one, Tashkent. We should unite in order to preserve this, modernize it, put new technology in place, and then having all this scientific and technical thought, to enter a level by which we can compete with all of the most developed countries of the world. The realistic recognition of our successes will lie in this, and in the fact that the independent states did not separate from each other, but united in order to resolve our common issues. [end recording]

Further on Aviation

OW2601222593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2024 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [26 January] in Kiev the Interstate Aviation Committee issued the Antonov aviation technology complex a flying certificate for the An-124-100 airplane, better known to the world as the Ruslan airgiant. The certificate qualifies the planes to fly international routes, to transport up to 150 tons, and to make non-stop flights of up to 20,000 km to any country in the world. Ruslan's capacity and flight duration specifications are unparalleled in the world.

Journalists were told that many countries have already placed orders for Ruslans, including the U.S., India, and China. At the certification ceremony it was stated that in the world market of aviation technology the U.S. supplies 70% of the products, Europe provides up to 15%, and before its collapse the USSR manufactured up to 10%.

Chairman of the Russian Federation Committee on the Defense Industry Viktor Glukhikh noted that only close

cooperation by all CIS countries will enable them to preserve their hard-earned position in the world market of aviation technology.

Today only 8 Ruslans have been built, 4 in Ukraine and 4 in Russia. The aviation factory in Ulyanovsk, Russia, which specializes in Ruslans, is capable of building 4 Ruslans a year. It was not ruled out, however, that in the future the factory's productivity might be increased to 12 planes a year.

National Affairs

Supreme Council Discusses Economic Issues 26 Jan

Pynzenyk on Economic Program

LD2601150993 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] The economic crisis in Ukraine is getting further aggravated. Production is declining, the budget deficit amounted to more than five trillion karbovanets, prices are growing at a time when wages in the state sector of economy have been frozen. The Government of Ukraine passed a whole number of decrees aimed at stabilizing the situation in economy. But it becomes ever more evident that the way out lies through an all-embracing and comprehensive program. In working out such a program the government lays emphasis on small business and small privatization. The program envisages structural priority. Vice Premier [and] Minister of Economy of Ukraine Viktor Pynzenyk, with more details:

[Begin Pynzenyk recording in Ukrainian fading to English translation] Problem number one is to supply Ukraine with power resources. We shall continue negotiations with Moscow towards that end, but we are also going to take measures to increase the output of oil and coal in Ukraine. A new oil terminal will be built in the sea port Odessa for the reception of oil carried by tankers. Another plan is to supply the population with consumer goods and food products. First and foremost this goes for agricultural produce. Our third task is to preserve intellectual potential in high technologies within the military-industrial complex. The conversion program should not turn enterprises with great scientific and production capacities into the manufacturers of teapots. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the government works on new decrees. One of these envisages special control over the prices set by enterprises (?monopoly). It is noteworthy that the current Government of Ukraine is open for any constructive ideas and cooperation with economists and practical specialists. For example, on 10th January this year, former Minister of Economy of Ukraine Volodymyr Lanovoy submitted an anticrisis program to the government worked out by a group of experts of the country for market reform. This was done upon the request of Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

Another group of experts, supported by the Socialist Party of Ukraine, are going to submit their economic program. There is little hope that any of the above programs will be accepted by the government, but quite evidently the most constructive proposals will be included into the government's anticrisis program. Only time will show whether this program will help withdraw Ukraine from the deep economic crisis.

New Bank Chairman Comments

OW2601134393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1243 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Parliament on Tuesday [26 January] elected Viktor Yushchenko chairman of the board of the Ukrainian National Bank. He received 287 votes out of a total of 374.

Up till now, Yushchenko has been deputy chairman of the board of the Ukrayina Agro-Industrial Bank, headed by Vadim Getman, former head of the national bank.

Yushchenko told parliament the republic's main economic problem, the payment crisis, has been caused by its unbalanced trade with Russia and the formation of market relations in Ukraine rather than by any of the national bank's shortcomings.

Yushchenko believes it cannot take Ukraine less than several years to close its budget deficit. Nor will it be possible to salvage all enterprises in the republic due to the present economic crisis.

He said the national bank will be pursuing a policy of selective crediting. Credits will above all be given to enterprises producing goods for export, thereby ensuring an inflow of hard currency into the republic.

Last year, two national bank chairmen resigned in succession, Viktor Matviyenko and Vadim Getman. Deputy Parliament Chairman Vladimir Grinev told the lawmakers senior parliament officals had consulted the heads of several commercial banks, industrialists and political party leaders, following which they was selected Yushchenko from five candidates and submitted his candidature to parliament for endorsement.

Proceedings Detailed

LD2601171093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Today's plenary sitting of the sixth session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine has ended. It dealt with the following matters:

(Viktor Andriyevych Yushchenko) has been confirmed as chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. Up to now he was first deputy director of the Ukrayina Bank.

A resolution was adopted on the state of implementation of laws and resolutions of the Supreme Council on issues of law and order and measures for promoting the campaign against crime. A package of documents was also adopted on bringing changes and additions to legislation already in operation, in particular laws on the militia, on banks and banking activity, and on privatization, and to the criminal and criminal procedure codes of Ukraine.

The law on the state auditing service in Ukraine and the resolution on the procedure of putting it into operation were also approved. Changes and additions were brought into the code of Ukraine on administrative offenses.

In this way the parliament eliminated some of its debts at the sixth session. The Cabinet of Ministers' submission for examination by the session of its action program for getting out of the economic crisis is awaited. The people's deputies will work in plenary session tomorrow. Several issues still remain unexamined. Well, after all the parliament will probably examine the government's action program by the end of the week.

Plan for 1993 Approved

OW2601205993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2021 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [25 January], the Ukrainian government approved its plan of actions for implementing the national economic policy. At a press conference on Tuesday, Vice President Viktor Pynzenyk expressed hope that the Ukrainian government would have enough wisdom not to obstruct this plan.

In the words of Mr Pynzenyk, in 1993 the government is going to keep the budget deficit at the level not exceeding 6%. The government is planning to cover the budget deficit by the resources taken as credits from various commercial banks, external sources and by issuing securities.

The Ukrainian Supreme Council session will address the governments' plan of actions at its session at the end of this week.

Cabinet of Ministers Discusses Economic Tasks

LD2601231093 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] [Announcer] A sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers has taken place in Kiev, conducted by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

[Correspondent] The importance and significance of this sitting are already indicated by there being practically no free places in this hall. This is understandable. After all, the draft of the plan of action of Ukraine's government regarding the implementation and development of the foundations of national economic policy for 1993 was being discussed. Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk reported on the program for getting out of the crisis.

What are the government's most important tasks in stabilizing and reforming the economy this year? These are: the revival of management of the state sector of the economy; renewal of the activity of state authority; implementation of a system of anti-inflationary measures; the development of an infrastructure of markets, resources, capital, and products; privatization and commercialization of trade in public catering and the service sphere; and introducing company-style structures in state (?enterprises).

Now about prices, which is most important for us ordinary citizens. The government's fundamental principle in this will be the optimum combination of state regulation of prices with free pricing. Goods—priority will go to those, who directly satisfy our daily needs in goods. In order to ease social tension in society over the crisis period, the government plans to make use of international assistance to supplement the market with goods.

Following a detailed discussion, the proposed draft plan of government action for 1993 was approved. It is now up to the Supreme Council of Ukraine, which has to approve this plan.

[Announcer] A news conference was held on the results of the sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers. Vice Premiers Pynzenyk, Zhulynskyy, and Ioffe took part.

Belarus

Shushkevich Interviewed on Internal Issues

OW2601171993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Interview with Stanislav Shushkevich, Belarusian Parliament chairman, by INTERFAX correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov; place and date not given; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidential Bulletin is completing the publication of the exclusive interview which Stanislav Shushkevich, granted to Interfax correspondent Vyachelsav Terekhov.

Interfax: You've mentioned already that individual provisions of the CIS economic agreements were not comprehensive enough. Now, how are economic laws implemented in Belarus?

Shushkevich: Perhaps some will not be pleased to hear what I'm going to say, but, anyway, our own laws are as inefficient as the legal acts, adopted within the framework of the CIS. Take the law on the protection of the consumer market, for instance. The way it is being implemented provides one more proof to the simple truth that economy cannot be governed by any declarations. We have realized that the law, adopted with the best of intentions, is putting pressure on the wrong people. Or, take the Cabinet's notorious Resolution No.711 which deals with monopoly on trade. I was reproached for saying, during my stay in China, that the whole of Belarus was a free economic zone. The government feared least the freedom of action might cause illegal exports of national wealth and unfair enrichment of individual people. As to the monopoly on foreign trade, whatever its form, it gives unlimited powers to the bureaucrats on all levels. We are well aware that this is a direct pretext for bribery, protectionism and uncontrollable actions of the mafia.

Interfax: All of the former Union republics, which have no energy resources of their own, attach priority to fuel supplies from the states which have enough energy resources. Now oil, not bread guarantees one's survival. How do you tackle this problem?

Shushkevich: Naturally, we are trying to solve the problem of oil supplies by dealing with Russia and Kazakhstan, not with the CIS as a whole. In fact, this is a matter of bilateral relations. I must admit, however, that we could not miss the opportunity of benefiting from the Russian President's visit to Belarus. Prior to his arrival, I had had several personal telephone conversations with him on this subject. Also, there have been telephone conversations at a governmental level.

We'll be able to solve the current economic problems if we avoid haste and turbulence. Our young political forces should care more for the national interests than for mere access to power through populist gimmicks. Authority may be made more efficient by applying normal and sound political methods. This refers to the media, as well.

Well, given the absence of economic turbulence, one can easily predict that during the transition to world prices (Russia will change over to world prices, because it cannot work to its own detriment), we shall entirely depend on Russia's oil loans until the year 1995. Our goal is to soften the transition to world prices as much a possible, despite the fact that Russia is urging us to move more quickly. Russia can see that we strictly observe the schedule and volume of commodity supplies to Russia. Of course, we cannot dictate our terms to it, because we understand that it can buy these goods somewhere else, even if prices are higher. But we cannot buy oil elsewhere, so we would like all of these factors to be taken into account, so that our transition to world prices, perhaps not as smooth as Russia's, be probational to our size and to our practice of making concessions in our dealings with Russia. So, what I'm talking about is the rate of transition to world prices. At the expert level, we have reached a consensus. Nor is there a lack of understanding at a higher level. I understand that Russia cannot treat us better than it treats any of its regions.

And yet, I would like to emphasize that even if a reasonable solution is found to the oil problem, we'll have to remain debtors till 1996, when we are able to start repaying our debt to Russia. I think that an agreement on the Inter-State Bank will help us cope with this problem.

Interfax: I understand it would be much easier to solve this problem if the former Union republics' moral duty to help Ukraine and Belarus eliminate the consequences of Chernobyl took a more practical form.

Shushkevich: Even though you are trying to be objective and well-meaning, you've said a phrase which sounds wrong in economic terms. Twenty two percent of our territory is contaminated. If the scale of contamination is compared with the population we can see that the share of the national budget allocated to the Chernobyl-related activity should be much greater than in Ukraine or Russia, given similar social guarantees. In other words, whereas the per-capital cost of the Chernobyl-related activities amounts to 1 kopeck in Russia and three kopecks in Ukraine, in Belarus it amounts to 1 ruble.

We receive aid only from Russia. We are grateful to it for this aid and will never listen to those who are trying to lay the responsibility for compensating the inflicted damage exclusively on Russia. We wish the Russian aid were more tangible, though.

Interfax: Industrial production in the republic was growing, slowly but surely, in the last two months of 1992. How did that become possible?

Shushkevich: We were introducing market principles into our economy but doing this in a sensible way rather than rushing it, and we also eliminated some of the more

glaring shortcomings in our economy. Last year, we were coming up against numerous faults and warps which had been caused by faults in our legislation. For example, there were factories which were performing terribly and were even selling off their fixed assets, but their managers had salaries next to which mine was a mere pittance. And all of it was fully in line with the law. There was also old Soviet legislation which still hadn't been repealed, which enabled some enterprises to actually plunder the Ukrainian public, wearing out state property and doing nothing to restore it. I think those are problems all republics had to deal with but we were, perhaps, making more efforts to change legislation. Although that was a fairly difficult task, since many of the managers I mentioned were members of parliament. Our parliament is actually very mixed in composition, in general, and it takes a lot of hard and patient work, and a lot of heated arguing to work out a correct solution.

We have our own "micro-Zhirinovskys" but it seems to me everyone is sick and tired of bitterness and mutual animosity. What we need now is cold rationalism, and that is what, I think, the measures taken by our government and parliament are marked by, although some of the debates in parliament are, indeed, overwhelmingly heated.

Interfax: What are your personal plans for this year?

Shushkevich: Above all, I would like parliament to provide the government with laws enabling it to carry out its program. I'm not sure this will solve all the problems but it is certainly an important thing to do. It would make everything more systematic. There will be target figures, something to check the government's work against. I am also in favor of a reasonable compromise which would be formalized by law and strictly monitored.

I would also very much like us to carry out our main task this year, adopt a constitution. In fact, we could have done that some time ago, when we had a moment of inspiration in our parliament. Now, however, it seems to me that, as our parliament becomes more professional, we are losing that impulse which, some time ago, would have been called revolutionary. We have very remarkable people in the constitutional working group, who have made, what in my view is a good draft, one that fits in with "outside world" requirements too. However, we have powerful resistance on the part of the former communists, who claim the new constitution provides no social guarantees. They even propose styling Belarus as a "social state." It seems inappropriate to them to say "socialist," but they believe a "social state" would guarantee the people protection from "wild capitalism." I feel this is slowing us down, and that is very dangerous. It is our duty to pass the constitution and a new electoral law this year. If that happens, I will feel my personal program for the year has been fulfilled.

However, the main thing is to ensure the normal interaction of powers in the economic sphere, for, if we let living standards go down, we shall have no adequate conditions for passing a constitution.

Officials Promote Business Contacts With Germany

LD2601163193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Mikhail Zhuravovich]

[Text] Minsk January 26 TASS—The first German-Belarusian day of the economy to be observed in Bonn on January 27 is meant to promote business relations between Belarus and Germany. A delegation from Belarus headed by Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Ling headed there today to participate in this action. It includes officials of various ministries and agencies and managers of the republic's major industrial plants and associations.

On the event's programme is discussing opportunities for economic cooperation not only with the North Rhine-Westphalia land but also between Germany and Belarus as a whole. The partners will examine various aspects of relations ranging from the monetary-banking and taxation systems to stimulating foreign investments and setting up joint enterprises with the mediation of the two countries' chambers of commerce and industry.

Moldova

Anti-Snegur Protests Staged at Parliament Building

AU2601150193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1436 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 26/1/1993—After the defeat late last week, the deputies of three groupings—agrarians, independents and representatives of "Soglasie" (conciliation)—created a state of nervosity in the legislative forum of the Republic of Moldova.

At 10:00 hours, when the parliamentary sitting opened, there were roughly 100 deputies in the hall, although early in the morning there had been 247. The speaker of the parliament, Alexandru Mosanu, said that the absent deputies were in session, without informing the Presidium, however.

After an hour, the attendance [as received] were informed that the respective deputies requested 20 more minutes. At 11:30, Alexandru Mosanu called the Presidium of the Parliament, to which invited were all the chairmen of the parliamentary groups, to see what could be done to overcome the crisis occurred in the activity of the legislative forum.

Policemen appeared round the parliamentary building and people were prevented from reaching the edifice. At the same time, there were groups of people carrying posters spelling "The people want a referendum", "Leave Alexandru Mosanu alone", "We want no CIS", "We want the country", "Mr. Snegur, we cannot be independent from Romania" and chanting "Down Snegur, down the government, down Judas".

There are pieces of information according to which in several areas of the republic the order-keeping forces are on a state of alert before further instruction, probably to be able to prevent the organization of demonstrations in connection with the referendum that managed to split the population.

The president of the republic, Mircea Snegur, did not attend the morning session.

Parliamentary Vice Chairman on 'Political Crisis'

OW2701143093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1411 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] If the Moldovan Parliament does not find a way out of the crisis, it will have to disband itself and announce early elections, Vice-Chairman of the Moldovan Parliament Viktor Puscasu told INTERFAX.

He believes that the political crisis in the supreme legislative body was caused by the fact that the parliamentary majority's proposal on holding a referendum on Moldova's independence is being blocked by the minority which favors Moldova's unification with Romania.

He also said that there is a split in the parliament's presidium, as well, although in the presidium pro-Romanian ideas prevail. Given this, the presidium cannot work out a reasonable compromise and propose it to parliament, said Puscasu.

Pro-Romanian Movement Delays Referendum on Independence

OW2601143893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan Parliament, on Tuesday [26 January], was unable to continue working as it continues to be boycotted by the majority landowner deputies' fraction together with a group of independent deputies and the Soglasie (Accord) fraction.

These deputies left the hall last Wednesday as a sign of protest against Alexsandru Mosanu, the Parliamentary Speaker. The landowners' fraction claimed that Mosanu, together with the pro-Romanian National Front fraction, had misrepresented the voting on a draft resolution on the referendum in Moldova. The referendum was to be on the two main articles of the new constitution which related to the republic's independence. As a result, no decision was taken on whether to hold a referendum or not and the whole affair remained open.

The discussion of the issue should have resumed January 26. However, the landowners' fraction has refused to enter the debating chamber until last week's conflict over the voting on the referendum had been officially cleared up. In connection with this, a joint session of parliament's presidium and the leaders of deputies' clubs and fractions has been called.

Meanwhile, Iurie Rosca, the chairman of the Christian Democratic National Front's Executive Committee, said that the referendum, which had the backing of President Snegur, vindicated the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact. Rosca stressed that his front viewed Moldova's independence as a transitional period to unification with Romania which, he said, Moldova's leadership was trying to prevent.

Gagauz Opposition Calls For Autonomous Economic Region

PM2701112193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Svetlana Gamova report: "Dyarchy Being Established in Moldova's South"]

[Text] Chisinau—The situation in Moldova's south has become complicated. Gagauz volunteers have occupied the local administration building in the settlement of Vulkenesti on behalf of the new Gagauz national structures of power. A detachment of Moldovan police has been sent to the scene. Nevertheless, a possible armed clash was averted and the conflict was successfully de-escalated. The sides agreed on two administration cabinets operating in the settlement—one Moldovan and one Gagauz.

The rayon where these events took place contains both Moldovan and Gagauz villages. The Gagauz region's authorities proposed to Chisinau that an autonomous national region be created on the basis of villages with predominantly Gagauz population. The question was not resolved legally, then the principle of strength came into play. The detonator of the conflict in Moldova's southern region again began to fire off. The region, which had waited two years for the Moldovan parliament to resolve the "Gagauz question," began to move. Although the situation here has changed over this period. The formerly united movement for national revival became divided. One section still supports the idea of an autonomous Gagauz republic, while the opposition calls for a compromise. Moldovan People's Deputy K. Tausanji, one of the opposition leaders, considers that today the main tasks of the People's Party, which he represents, are to "smash the politics of confrontation," get the Gagauz deputies back into the Moldovan parliament, and try and get a decision on the southern regions' status by parliamentary means.

The opposition submitted to the Moldovan parliament a draft law which regards the south as an autonomous economic region. It was proposed that the people elect its first leader, with Chisinau confirming him subsequently.

The republic's indivisibility and the unconditional operation of Moldovan laws in the Gagauz region are the document's fundamental principles and the very point of

compromise which opens the way to negotiations. These negotiations have, incidentally, taken place, and, from what Moldova's leading officials say, with success. But the matter did not get beyond words about mutual satisfaction. The question of Gagauz autonomy was simply not put on the agenda of the republic parliament's session.

"We are pinning our hopes on the Gagauz people's wisdom, thanks to which we have avoided the kind of events which took place in Bendery in the republic's south," K. Tausanji stated. "We are also counting on a healthy foreign policy and support from Turkey. The Gagauz border region, where, incidentally quite a few Bulgarians live, could play the role of a link between Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey."

Nonetheless, the Moldovan parliament alone is in a position to ease tension in the Budjak steppe—Moldova's southern zone—where the Dniester syndrome is clearly beginning to have a more and more pronounced effect.

U.S. To Grant Aid for Drought Relief

LD2701095393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0948 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau January 27 TASS—The United States Agriculture Department has decided to allocate Moldova financial help for the removal of the aftereffects of the 1992 drought. This question is now being considered by an expert group of the international bank for reconstruction and development.

The preliminary grant will constitute 25 million U.S. dollars which will be repayble in a period of 16 years with the interest rate of 7.6 per annum.

Although the usual procedure of providing such credits takes from 8 to 12 months, but the the bank delegation which has come to the republic, has all necessary authorities to complete all essential expertise in 3-4 weeks.

Poll Shows Growing Dissatisfaction in Moldova

LD2501152093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1409 GMT 25 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 25 TASS—Authorities in Moldova have scored low in a recent independent sociological survey conducted by the "Opiniya" service.

Only 40 per cent of respondents said they were satisfied with President Mircha Snegur, 20 per cent trusted the government and a meagre eight per cent supported parliament.

At the same time some 60 per cent of those polled called the social, political and economic situation in Moldova critical. As many as 72 per cent were dissatisfied with rising prices and the cost of living and more than a half were appalled by lawlessness and corruption in the republic.

Respondents overwhelmingly named the end to the armed conflict in the Dniester region and Moldova's recognition in the world as the most important event of the past year.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Explains Economic Policy Changes

PM2601140593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 pp 1-2

[Vladimir Ardayev report: "President of Kazakhstan Announces Return to State Planning"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—For several days now the front pages of official Kazakh newspapers have been full of pictures of new ministers, committee chairmen, leaders of state services, heads of oblast administrations, and vice premiers. A mass renewal of the government cabinet and the entire presidential team is usually preceded by an amendment to the policy line—and this has been the case this time too.

The president of Kazakhstan set out a number of considerations associated with this amendment in a speech at the Supreme Soviet session the other day. The speech was prompted by the legislature's confrontation with the executive—a conflict that had long been obvious but had become increasingly noticeable of late. It was expressed, in particular, in the parliament's adoption of the Law on the Control Chamber—an organ under the Supreme Soviet's jurisdiction which would monitor execution of the budget and would be entitled to exercise its powers in any state institutions, including the government and the president's apparatus. But N. Nazarbayev, judging by his speech, was stung by something else—namely, the deputies' criticism of the government program for urgent anticrisis measures and the deepening of socioeconomic reform. And he considered it necessary to explain the essence of his current policy to the parliamentarians.

First and foremost, he stated that he considers the most important condition for implementing anticrisis reform and socially guaranteed reform to be the assertion of constitutionality in the state. "The reforms will die unless we ensure from top to bottom not only abstract respect for the Constitution but also unswerving observance of the Constitution and the laws stemming from it, without permitting any crafty interpretations," he said.

We must assume that, in saying this, the president was issuing a veiled rebuke to the Supreme Soviet, which has delayed the process of discussing and adopting the Kazakhstan Constitution, as a result of which a paradoxical situation has come about whereby laws that have no legal foundation are being debated and passed—after all, Kazakhstan is to all intents and purposes still continuing to live under the constitution of the Kazakh SSR.

N. Nazarbayev stated that "there are currently no objective grounds for radically changing the political course of reform." But, in what has now become the tradition, he pinned the blame for the failure of the first phase on Russia: "As you know, since the start of 1992 the republic's government has been forced to accept ground rules dictated by Russia. Both governments backed the simultaneous liberalization of the economy and the stabilization of the monetary and financial system. The experience of the past year has shown that both these goals are unattainable in the short term."

In Nazarbayev's opinion, other countries' experience of implementing stabilization programs should not automatically be imposed on Kazakhstan. The generalized approach is unacceptable if only because all the states which have been through the stabilization process already had market-based economies and did not require such thoroughgoing liberalization as the former Union republics. The president of Kazakhstan formulated the main task of the current stage as follows: Along with financial stabilization we must restrain the slump in production and consumption and rule out crisis phenomena in consumer-complex sectors. And we must proceed on the basis of the republic's national interests so as to prevent all-out bankruptcies and large-scale unemployment.

The president and the government see the optimization of the state budget as a paramount anticrisis measure—it is planned to increase revenue and cut expenditure. "A tight budget is a necessity," Nazarbayev said at the session. "We have provided various concessions and, in practice, a hidden subsidy to areas with poor environmental conditions and to citizens, we have reduced the pension age, and we have increased leave to levels which even countries with prosperous economies cannot afford. An analysis of the state of affairs here and in other countries leads us to conclude that we are eating up the state without yet doing anything for its real sovereignty. And there will be no sovereignty if Kazakhstan continues to be economically dependent on its neighbors..."

The Government of Kazakhstan intends to pursue a structural policy in an attempt to continue the development of market relations and at the same time to make the modernization of the economy controllable. Priority sectors will be highlighted in the following order—the fuel and energy complex, the consumer sector, metallurgy, and communications.

The new government privatization program for the next two to three years (it still has to be approved by the Supreme Soviet) envisaged the development of three main avenues—"small-scale privatization," "massive privatization," and the privatization of major industries on the basis of individual projects.

State enterprises will have to be reformed. The reform will consist of demarcating the rights and duties of state enterprises and administrative organs. All state enterprises and organizations will be divided into two categories. The first will include those under direct state control, carrying out tasks for state organs, and financed out of the budget—the defense industry, transportation, communications, and organizations in the nonindustrial sphere that are incompatible with commerce. The workers will have the status of state employees. The second category will include all other enterprises

working on the principles of complete commercial accountability [raschet], but remaining state-owned. These will be transformed into joint-stock or limited-liability companies. They will be run by an oversight board (or board of directors) appointed by sectoral ministries.

Monetary and credit policy will also undergo changes. These, in the president's words, will require a fundamental restructuring of the activities of the republic's National Bank and its relationship with the government and the commercial banks. The essence of the change, insofar as we understand it, is to make the National Bank subject to government jurisdiction.

One way or another the "main policy changes," Nazarbayev summed up, "will be linked to an increase in the state's role in regulating the economy, and we will return to the practice accepted in all countries, whereby this role is exceptionally high."

Judging by his speech in parliament, the leader of Kazakhstan has made a major critical revision to the entire preceding economic policy of both his state and other CIS states. He called the trends which prevailed in the former Soviet Union from the very emergence of the idea of market transformations "extremist." And he stated: "Whether we like it or not, the economy of Kazakhstan is becoming a 'semimarket' economy and will be so for many years. The hasty, revolutionary destruction of the old at a time when the new has not yet been built most often leads to economic chaos and a decline that discredits the new progressive idea. This inevitably leads to a revival in the prestige of the old, rejected system, which allowed people to more or less make ends meet." In this connection he again touched on the question of the need to revive long-term planning in Kazakhstan.

So the Kazakhstan leadership's new course has been defined—it is moving from a frontal attack on reform to deliberately long-term maneuvering and positional action.

But there is one fact which simply cannot be avoided. I will cite one other quotation from N. Nazarbayev's speech at the session: "Some deputies are accusing the government of not involving academic economists in the elaboration of its program. In this regard I would like to say that I personally listened to the opinion of our academics at the Higher Economic Council session. None of them were able to put forward specific, original ideas. A detailed study of the items submitted by the economic institutes, various experts (including foreigners), and the speeches by various representatives of the intelligentsia and different parties has shown that they were all basically compilations and were a 'scientific' [naukoobraznyy] version of various articles that have been published in the mass media. And these are presented as serious proposals aimed at improving the government's economic policy. I have analyzed the scientific interests of our academic economists and our populists too. It transpires that we have no top-notch or even middling specialists in macroeconomics, finances, or monetary and credit matters."

The shortage of qualified cadres or new-thinking people in the Kazakhstan leader's team has largely been the stumbling block that reforms in the republic—which just a year ago had aroused so much interest worldwide—have encountered. Clearly, no help has been provided by the widely trumpeted practice of bringing in "imported brains," whose famous and not-so-famous names were linked to one or other of the "economic miracles"—South Korea, Singapore...

Yet even the most fleeting analysis of the numerous reshuffles which have shaken the pyramid of power in Kazakhstan for a week now shows that in most cases the change in the team merely signifies another reshuffling of the pack of cards called yesterday's nomenklatura.

Incidentally, perhaps this is the most suitable option for implementing the amended reform program.

Nazarbayev Interviewed on Minsk Summit, Key Issues

LD2601130193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0540 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Interview with President Nursultan Nazarbayev by correspondent Viktor Glukhovtsev in Tashkent; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Glukhovtsev] Nursultan Abishevich, what sentiments and hopes have you brought home with you from Minsk and what are the tasks ahead?

[Nazarbayev] A great deal of skepticism had been voiced at some time since the summit date was switched twice. I consider the Minsk meeting to have been a successful one, and I felt personally satisfied when I left the session. The main issues that Kazakhstan has always insisted upon are the adoption of a charter, a charter stipulating the principles of the work of the CIS, the work of the council of heads of states and their prerogatives and powers, and the work of the council of heads of government.

We have now submitted a new idea for a coordinating consultative economic committee rather than a commission. The committee will have a chairman, under whom a coordinator will work. I think these will be people at the level of deputy prime minister, and they will somehow monitor the fulfillment of our accords.

A second most important issue, which in fact was examined first, is the establishment of an interbank union of the states in the ruble zone. There was a great dispute on both issues. We heard the arguments put forward by Ukraine, which believes that the matter is not

ready and that they have alternative documents, statements, papers, and so forth. I had to voice my counterarguments to this, because the document was not drawn up in haste; the work had been under way for more than six months.

You will recall that the question was first raised at the Moscow meeting of heads of state on 6 July last year, and subsequently it was discussed at two sessions. This was the fourth session. Today the CIS in effect consists of nine states, which have ratified the Belovezhskaya document and the Alma-Ata Declaration. The Baltics and Georgia are not members of the CIS, and Azerbaijan and Moldova have not ratified the documents. Seven of the nine states signed the charter; that is not bad, I reckon.

We did adopt Ukraine's proposal and everyone signed a statement, taking into account the politicial situation there, that the charter is open to be signed by other states. Ukraine will, I think, examine this at its parliament, discuss it with all the various political forces and organizations, and return to this issue. The charter contains nothing—not a single word—that would be in contradiction to the Alma-Ata Declaration and the documents on setting up the CIS.

Another matter is that this document should not remain merely on paper; it must be implemented. I have a number of definite ideas on this subject which I voiced the other day. The production ministries, the agro-industrial complex, and the oil and gas extraction industries of all the states, including the Baltics, have an interest in economic cooperation. We must work on this now to open up long-term prospects.

[Glukhovtsev] What are long-term prospects for work in the future?

[Nazarbayev] First, the most urgent issue is that of money circulation. The charter of the banking union states....[changes thought] I will say that Russia's delegation and President Yeltsin made a very serious contribution when they met the other states halfway and agreed that Russia's voting share would be not 75 percent but 50 percent, and that of all the rest 50 percent. Russia cannot therefore make decisions unilaterally, but two or three states together can make decisions. We objected to the money being called the Russian Federation banknote. It will be called the ruble, but it will indeed be printed by the Russian Federation Bank.

The bank chairmen are to meet soon, I think, to decide these two very important aspects. If in addition to this the Coordinating Consultative Economic Committee starts operating, it will be an indication that the seven states which signed these most important documents are beginning to establish relations moving toward creating a normal commonwealth.

[Glukhovtsev] It was you who launched this important initiative, which was somewhat impeded at previous meetings.

[Nazarbeyev] All of the initiatives which seemed not to be accepted at all at the first sessions have now effectively been accepted. At the last session I put forward another proposal, namely to set up an court of arbitration for the CIS states. It would not be an economic court; it would be a sort of court like in The Hague, which would examine conflicts arising between states, including conflicts of an interethnic nature. It would be comprised of authoritative judges and would involve authoritative states in the world in its decisions. In this way we ourselves could have a body to examine all issues objectively, to act as an arbitrator on them, and to submit suggestions to the sessions of the heads of states.

Kyrgyzstan

President Calls For Mobilization Against Crime, Corruption

OW2601213793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2024 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan conducted a closed meeting lasting several hours with members of the National Security Committee in Bishkek on Tuesday [26 January]. His aim was to "determine the role of the law enforcement bodies, including the national security [committee], in developing emergency measures for bringing Kyrgyzstan out of its economic crisis."

The press service of the State Committee for National Security told Interfax that Akayev said one main task was "the mobilization of all forces in the fight against economic crime, contraband, corruption, and bribery, which have reached threatening levels."

Chairman of the Security Committee Anarbek Bakayev claimed there were incidences of corruption in the leaderships of separate state organs. President Akayev announced the need to adopt "decisive measures" against the guilty parties, "right down to arrest."

Worried About Corruption, Economy

LD2701112093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev has announced that a deterioration of the republic's socio-economic situation is inevitable. At a meeting with workers of the republican Procuracy, which was held behind closed doors, Akayev said that there is a growth in the scale of economic crime, corruption of state officials, and their links with shady business. In Akayev's opinion the procurators in the localities have distanced themselves from fulfillment of their duties of office and essentially not one of the adopted decisions of the state bodies of power is operating.

Tajikistan

Border Guards on Alert for 'Major Armed Provocations'

PM2601131793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Karpov report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Provocations From Gunmen Possible in Tajikistan's Border Regions"]

[Text] Dushanbe—Russian border guard units stationed on Tajikistan's territory have been placed on heightened combat alert.

This measure was undertaken because, according to information from the Border Guard Troops Command, groups of gunmen in Afghanistan from forces opposed to Tajikistan's incumbent government intend to organize major armed provocations in the border regions. The information about the opposition members' plans came from refugees returning to the motherland from Afghanistan. Border Guard Troop Command representatives assert that a total of some 60,000 citizens of Tajikistan have crossed to the far bank of the Panj River. As a result of measures adopted by the republic's new authorities, around 700 people have returned home.

Ramit Gorge Disarmament Operation Continues

LD2601130993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1102 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 26 TASS—Tajik Government troops continue an operation to disband and disarm armed opposition groups in the Ramit Gorge located several dozen kilometers east of Dushanbe.

According to information received by ITAR-TASS from military sources on Tuesday [26 January], there are casualties, including government troops, as a result of several clashes.

The number of gunmen is small, but they know the terrain well, have well-accomodated hideouts and advanced weapons, including anti- tank arms and sniper's rifles, which is a great advantage in mountain conditions.

Nevertheless, government troops advanced some 40 kilometers into the Ramit Gorge over the past two days and virtually sealed off opposition groups there. According to military sources, the operation to clean the gorge from armed groups will take several days.

Republican Interior Minster Yakub Salimov said at the same time that authorities are ready to continue talks with field commanders of the Ramit group to end their senseless resistance and to disband that group.

According to the minister, the government guarantees personal security to field commanders and rank-and-file gunmen and will prevent spontaneous violence against members of armed opposition: the court of law will determine their responsibility.

Describing the situation in other Tajik regions, Chairman of the National Security Committee Saidamir Zukhurov said that it is relatively stable, stressing that the situation is under control of law enforcement bodies.

Authorities step up actions to seize weapons illegally obtained by people during civil strife. Nevertheless, the security chief noted, Tajik people still have several dozen thousands of firearms in their possession.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Ambassador

LD2701153793 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 0400 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov has received U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan Stanley Escudero. During the conversation, which was held in a spirit of openness and mutual understanding, they discussed prospects for the development of relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the United States.

The ambassador assured the minister that the new U.S. Administration will continue to develop the existing mutually advantageous cooperation, and stressed that as the inheritor of a long and rich history, Tajikistan should play a still greater role in the region. Mr. Escudero expressed the hope that relations between the United States and Tajikistan will rise to a qualitatively new level.

Olimov expressed gratitude to the U.S. ambassador to Tajikistan for the humanitarian aid being rendered [words indistinct]. Escudero reported that at present another consignment of humanitarian aid is waiting to be sent to Germany, and in the next few days it will be delivered by air to Tajikistan.

Ambassador on U.S. Plans for Aid

LD2601131393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe January 26—The new American Administration, as President Clinton's personal position, intends to develop and strengthen existing political and economic collaboration with Tajikistan and support the efforts of the constitutionally elected government to stabilize the internal political situation in the republic and observe human rights, American Ambassador Stanley Escudero to the republic told Foreign Affairs Minister Rashid Olimov.

The American diplomat said, taking into consideration the complex economic situation in Tajikistan caused by well-known events, the United States will increase urgent

humanitarian aid to the Tajik people. Escudero mentioned that several large air-loads of food, medical supplies and other urgently needed goods were sent to Dushanbe last year. In late December, before he left office, Bush set aside five million dollars for Tajikistan. In the next few days, the American ambassador said, a new load of humanitarian help will arrive in Dushanbe, which will include food and medicines in short supply.

Tajik Foreign Affairs Minister Olimov thanked the American ambassador and all of the American people for material and moral support in Tajik's difficult days, and emphasized the country's leadership is ready to broaden collaboration with the new administration on principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of both countries.

CIS Delegation Helping To Form Defense Ministry

OW2701155793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1413 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A group of high-ranking officers from the Chief of Command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces left for Tajikistan on Wednesday [27 January], to give the republic practical assistance in the organization of its own Defense Ministry. According to the command's Public Information Center, the delegation is headed by Vladimir Krivonogikh, First Deputy Chief of Staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

UN Mission Guarantees Impartiality of Peacekeeping Forces

OW2701161693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The United Nations mission in Tajikistan says that the "impartiality of efforts" by countries whose troops will soon be participating in peacekeeping efforts in the troubled republic will be guaranteed by its presence. The statement was made by Liviu Botha, the head of the mission.

He reported that the delegation is composed of six people and has a three-month mandate; its members will leave Dushanbe on April 20 if there is no need to extend the mandate.

The previous United Nations mission, said Botha, led to efforts by countries in the region to stabilize the situation in Tajikistan.

The goals of the current mission, noted Botha, are to assist in the cessation of hostilities and to help guarantee human rights in independent Tajikistan.

Official Denies Rumors of Pamir Residents' Persecution

LD2701133793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By KHOVAR correspondent Viktor Kozlov—TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe January 27 TASS—"Rumours about the alleged persecution of residents of the Pamir region in Dushanbe and other parts of the republic are at variance with the real situation," Garibsho Shabozov, deputy chairman of the executive committee of the regional council of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, believes. He is head of the commission of people's deputies for checking facts of the persecution of Pamir residents and finding victims of the conflict in the republic.

Speaking at a press conference today in Khorog, which is the administrative centre of the Gorno-Badakhshan region, he said members of the commission had met chairman of the Tajik Parliament Imamali Rakhmonov and other leaders of the republic. "The present legitimate authorities of Tajikistan, far from persecuting Pamir residents, are doing all they can for helping people in the Gorno-Badakhshan region with food and fuel," Garibsho Shabozov said.

Afghan President Urges Solution to Refugee Problem

LD2701091393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0803 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By KHOVAR correspondent Viktor Kozlov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe January 27—"The Afghan-Tajik border has been and will always be a border of friendship and fraternity. We intend to turn it into a zone of extensive bilateral cooperation, a zone of security of our two fraternal nations and all countries of the region," says a telegram, sent by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to Chairman of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmonov.

Touching upon the problem of Tajik refugees, who found themselves on Afghan territory, the Afghan president stressed the intention of his government to set up a special commission for discussing the problem of their return to the Republic of Tajikistan. "We hope the problem will be resolved soon," the message said.

Refugees Return Home From Afghanistan

OW2601213993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2024 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 85 residents of Tajikistan returned home from Afghanistan Tuesday [26 January] through the control point in Ishkashim. The press center of the Tajik National Security Committee reported this to Interfax.

According to the press service's information, another 254 people returned home in the direction of Panj.

The report notes that in aside from refugees, border violators have penetrated into the republic's territory. In recent days four unidentified persons from Afghanistan made it deep into Tajikistan. A search is currently being conducted.

According to unofficial information, in order to escape the fighting between warring factions in the Kulyab and Kurgan-Tyube regions of Tajikistan, several hundred thousand residents left the republic. Approximately 100,000 of them crossed into Afghanistan.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Discusses Outcome of Minsk Meeting

OW2601172793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov, participating, on Monday [25 January], in the sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic, once more confirmed that Turkmenistan "rejects the creation, in the CIS, of strict centralized structures whose activities will have a suprastate character". An Interfax correspondent learnt that the Cabinet of Ministers approved the outcome of the Minsk meeting. In particular it was noted that Turkmenistan maintains its right to adopt, within the CIS, those decisions which favor the national interests of the country and do not infringe on its sovereignty.

The Cabinet of Ministers also approved the position of the republics on Tajikistan. Niyazov announced that Turkmenistan adheres to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and believes that the Tajik people themselves are capable of "putting their house in order."

During the discussion on the state of affairs in different sectors of the republic's economy, Niyazov, in particular called for more attention to the agricultural complex. In his opinion there is a need to increase the production of grain, meat, oil, milk and potatoes. The President indicated that, by spring, as much grain as possible should be cultivated on empty plots.

Niyazov also thinks that, in Turkmenistan, it is necessary to revive the class of proprietors. To initiate this, people should be given state credits, rented plots of land for 10 years and also permitted to privatize small and medium enterprises. Only after the emergence of this class of proprietors, in the opinion of the President, will it be possible to begin the privatization of state property.

Tajik Parliament Speaker Arrives for Official Visit

LD2601151293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1431 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ludmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat January 26 TASS—An official Tajik delegation headed by speaker of the republic's Supreme Soviet, Imamali Rakhmonov, arrived in the Turkmen capital today on a working visit.

Rakhmonov left the airport immediately for the presidential palace where he will conduct negotiations with Turkmenistan's leader Saparmurad Niyazov. Government consultations have already begun in the Turkmen Cabinet of Ministers.

Interstate documents will be signed tomorrow. In addition to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, an agreement on developing trade and economic cooperation and a joint communique are expected.

Agreements Signed

LD2701142193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1337 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat, 27 Jan—Documents were signed today within the framework of the visit of the Tajikistan state delegation, headed by Imamali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet, to Turkmenistan. A protocol on diplomatic relations has been concluded, and a trade and economic agreeement signed, as well as an agreement on transport. A joint communique was also adopted.

Afghan General Meets With Niyazov

OW2701155493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] General Rashid Dostam, the administrative head of the northern provinces of Afghanistan, held closed-door negotiations on Wednesday [27 January], with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov. According to a report from the president's press service, the conversation was merely an "exchange of information regarding the internal situation in the two countries."

On the eve of the meeting, Dostam met with Turkmen Vice-President Boris Shikhmuradov. The Deputy Head of the Turkmen government noted, in an interview with INTERFAX, that Dostam had, "with the approval of his country's government, made a private trip to Turkmenistan" and discussed the rendering of aid to the northern provinces of Afghanistan, which are traditionally in need of gas and electricity.

Armenia

Spokesman: Russia Wants 'Partner,' Not 'Small Brother'

NC2601134693 Yerevan SNARK in English 0742 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 26 (SNARK)—Stability in Russia is stability for Armenia, Armenian President Press-Secretary Ruben Shugaryan considers. Just because of the fact Armenia has to render Russia with assistance to make it possible to obtain help that Russia needs from the U.S. Relating the Russian-Armenian relations, Shugaryan characterized the relations as "good," and noted that the strengthening of the bilateral ties has become possible due to the fact that Russian policy at Transcaucasia has been finally determined. Armenia and Russia are reliable partners. I think Russia is interested in Armenia as a partner, not as a "small brother," Shugaryan emphasized.

Radio Link Between Yerevan, Border Areas Set Up

NC2601193493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY reports that following fierce shelling yesterday morning, Azerbaijani Army units supported by tanks attacked Nakhichevanik, Karaglukh, and Khramort in Askeranskiy Rayon, and Kichan, Aradzhadzor, and Kazanchi in Mardakertskiy Rayon. The self-defense detachments near Kazanchi came under fire from two enemy MI-24 helicopters.

The enemy's attacks in all directions were completely repulsed today and more than 80 enemy soldiers were killed.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic self-defense forces headquarters reports that large numbers of enemy troops, military hardware, and artillery pieces are massing at Agdam.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service informed the ARMENPRES correspondent that the situation on Armenia's borders was calm yesterday and today.

The republic's northeastern region and Krasnoselskiy Rayon now have a direct radio link with Yerevan. A special team from the Armenian Civil Defense Headquarters, headed by Colonel Andrey Kasparyan, completed the work within three days. Local specialists helped Captain Armen Baburyan, head of the Special Communications Department, and radio engineer Anatoliy Uzov set up the system. Lieutenat Colonel Ruben Gilbaryan, head of the Communication Transmissions System at the headquarters, was also in the group and checked the operation of the radio system. Captain Baburyan also worked out the two-way signalling systems [word indistinct].

The border regions now can inform the headquarters about the air and ground attacks within a few minutes, which will considerably increase the efficiency of the counter-measures and retaliatory operations.

Eight border regions currently have similar radio links with Yerevan.

Azerbaijan

Prime Minister Guseynov Resigns; Replaced by Masimov

LD2601185093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1832 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By AZERTAC for TASS]

[Text] Baku January 26 TASS—Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Ragim Guseynov resigned from his post and was replaced by Ali Masimov, first deputy prime minister, according to a decree of the president of Azerbaijan issued on Tuesday.

No reasons for the resignation were cited, however the decree said Guseynov had offered to resign.

Masimov, 40, is a specialist in political economics. He was first deputy prime minister and head of the State Committee of Azerbaijan on Economics and Planning.

Resignation Due To 'Negative Attitude'

LD2701114093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister of Azerbaijan, Ragim Guseynov, has resigned. As reported in the republic's Council of Ministers, the resignation was accepted by President Abulfaz Elchibey. Guseynov's resignation is connected with his negative attitude to the proposed reorganization of the structure of the administration and the republic's leadership and the possible elimination of the Council of Ministers.

The duties of prime minister have been temporarily given to Ali Masimov, first vice premier and chairman of the State Committee for Economics and Planning.

Press Secretary Backs Iraqi Adherence to UN Resolutions

NC2601141393 Yerevan SNARK in English 0742 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 26 January (SNARK)—Azerbaijan stands for the Iraqi adherence to the U.N. resolutions. Commenting on the Azerbaijani position on the Gulf conflict Arif Aliyev, Azerbaijani presidential press-secretary, said that Azerbaijan stands for the Iraqi adherence to the UN resolutions, and the Azerbaijani leadership accusing the Baghdad actions, declares the necessity of a peaceful settlement of the problems, which occur in Middle East.

Presidential Adviser Not Optimistic on Future of CIS

OW2601170893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President's International Policy Adviser, Vafa Guluzade, thinks, that in all likelihood, the CIS cannot be preserved in its present form. In his opinion, the Commonwealth may only have a future as a consultative organ. Commenting on the meeting of Commonwealth leaders in Minsk, at which Azerbaijan participated as an observer, he said that "there is more than one evaluation of this meeting: Certain participants of the summit see it as a success, but the West on the other hand thinks it was without results." The adviser also remarked that several Commonwealth states negatively reacted to attempts to interfere in their domestic affairs through various joint documents.

According to Guluzade, however, Baku thinks it would be worthwhile for Azerbaijan to participate at CIS forums as an observer. This, he is convinced, will enable the country "to keep a hand on the pulse of world policy." The republic, however, has principally decided against joining the Commonwealth, the adviser stressed.

Azerbaijan's relations with Russia were described by Guluzade as close and friendly.

In the adviser's words, government experts are now developing the question of Azerbaijan's position regarding the treaty, signed in Minsk, on the creation of an interstate bank.

With regard to the results of the visit to Baku by Chairman of the Minsk CSCE conference on political settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Mario Rafaeli, the president's adviser said: Baku is in favor of diplomatic and political settlement to the conflict, but "each step to peace on this path is torpedoed by the Armenian side."

When discussing the outlook for the Minsk meeting and ways to settle the conflict, the Azerbaijani side, the adviser said, that Yerevan should announced their rejection of any territorial claims on Azerbaijan. Baku leaders think that in the first place it is necessary to annul the resolution to unite Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, which was passed by the Supreme Soviet of Armenia in 1989. Guluzade thinks that the Armenian side is not yet showing its readiness for a Minsk conference. In order for the conference to take place, he thinks, Armenia should end military activities on Azerbaijani territories and remove its troops from Shushi and Lachina.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: At the meeting last Friday with Mario Rafaelli, Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey emphasized that the process of political settlement of the conflict is developing slowly, since large states are in no hurry to actively participate in settling the conflict. Elchibey accused Armenia of violating all agreements reached earlier through international mediation.

Ministry Denies Intention To Obtain, Use Chemicals

NC2601155693 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1224 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 26 Jan (AZERTAC)—The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry headquarters has issued a statement in connection with reports disseminated by the Armenian mass media that Azerbaijan is preparing to launch an air strike against Armenian power plants, drop poisonous war materials on the population, and use cargo planes to bomb Khankendi [Stepanakert].

The statement, circulated today via AZERTAC channels, says that Azerbaijan has no intention of obtaining chemical weapons or using them.

The statement notes that Azerbaijan did not get any poisonous materials during the division of the former Soviet Army's property. This can be confirmed by the CIS Joint Armed Forces command, it notes.

The statement says the Armenian side has disseminated this lie to justify its aggression against Azerbaijani territory, adding that Armenian expeditionary corps fiercely shelled Agdam today. A child was killed and six people were gravely injured. The shelling caused considerable damage to the city.

According to information from the Defense Ministry, the enemy also shelled the border settlements in Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy and Akstafinskiy Rayons today.

Government Denies Involvement in Pipeline Blast

NC2601154593 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1224 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 26 Jan (AZERTAC)—The Azerbaijani Presidential Press Service has refuted the statement by the Armenian Presidential Press Service that the explosion at the gas pipeline crossing Georgia's Marneulskiy Rayon "was a carefully planned and executed act of sabotage by Azerbaijan."

The Azerbaijani statement says: "This is a blatant and unfounded lie. There is not a single shred of evidence to support this claim. Armenia has even given itself the right to assume the functions of the Georgian investigatory agencies."

Referring to an INTERFAX report citing "Armenian sources" that the explosion "is the signal for a chemical weapons attack on Nagorno-Karabakh," the Azerbaijani Presidential Press Service noted: "Without being surprised by the vast imagination of the these 'sources,' it

should be stated that the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry neither has chemical weapons nor intends to use chemical weapons."

The statement also refuted an INTERFAX report that an Azerbaijani MiG-25 aircraft was hijacked and brought to Yerevan's "Zvartnots" airport. Citing the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, the Azerbaijani Presidential Press Service said: "During the entire existence of the Defense Ministry, none of its military hardware has been hijacked to Armenia."

The statement says: "The obvious aim of the new Armenian propaganda campaign, launched when international efforts to peacefully resolve the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict have increased and when Mario Raffaelli, the chairman of the Minsk conference, is visiting Transcaucasia, is to undermine the practical achievements and prepare the ground for further aggression against Azerbaijan."

The statement adds: "The Armenian side resorts to such propaganda and deception whenever it plans to intensify the terrorist groups' operations on Azerbaijani territory." To confirm this point, the statement adds that Armenian terrorists have been detained and neutralized in Azerbaijan in the last month.

Armenian Forces' Withdrawal From Shusha, Lachin Demanded

OW2601143693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vafa Guluzade, the Azerbaijani president's international policy advisor, has said that "Armenia must halt all military activity on Azerbaijani territory and withdraw occupational forces from Shusha and Lachin" before the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh takes place.

Guluzade said after Sunday's visit to Azerbaijan by Mario Rafaelli, the chairman of the Minsk conference, that an official statement would have to be made by Armenia on the fact that she had no territorial claims on Azerbaijan. The priority here was to nullify the resolution, passed by the Armenian parliament in 1989, on the unification of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia.

Seven Die in Armenian Shelling of Agadam 26 Jan

OW2601143393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Seven people, including one child, have died as a result of shelling by Armenian units of the Azerbaijani regional center of Agdam, close to the border with Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan's Defence Minister has said that the shelling was carried out using multiple rocket launchers, in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Another Armenian attack was, according to information from Baku, repulsed in the south of Karabakh. One Armenian tank, an armored personnel carrier and a multiple rocket launcher were destroyed.

Meanwhile the Azerbaijani army command continues its attempts to seize the whole of the Mardakert region of Nagorno-Karabakh, Interfax was informed by the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence headquarters. Azeris with armored back up, attacked Armenian positions early on Tuesday. The Armenians are currently containing the onslaught.

Armenian units controlling the south of the Mardakert region, yesterday destroyed a bus carrying Azerbaijani soldiers.

Monday's fighting resulted in loss of 70 people by Azerbaijan and 2 by Armenia.

'Significant' Armenian Losses in Fizulinskiy

LD2601151693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1321 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Elchin Sardarov for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 26 Jan—Several units of combat equipment belonging to Armenian armed formations were destroyed today by units of the Azerbaijani National Army during fighting in the republic's Fizulinskiy Rayon, adjacent to upper Karabakh. According to the latest report from the center for information and analysis of the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense, circulated in the afternoon, the enemy suffered significant losses during the liberation of a number of settlements and was forced to retreat to its original positions.

The General Staff has reported that "units of Armenian expeditionary corps" subjected Agdam to an intensive shelling today in which one child was killed, six adults were seriously wounded, and the rayon center was significantly damaged. According to the military department, the enemy also fired on border villages of Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy and Akstafinskiy Rayons this morning.

President Imposes State of Emergency in Kazakhskiy Rayon

NC2601210693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Jan 93

["Text" of President Abulfaz Elchibey's decree imposing a state of emergency in Kazakhskiy Rayon, in Baku on 26 January—read by announcer]

[Text] In accordance with Article 121 of the republic's Constitution, Provision 4, Paragraph 16, I have decided:

1. Considering the threat posed to the life of citizens in Kazakhaskiy Rayon by widespread agitation, accompanied by violence, and illegal activities of armed groups, a state of emergency will be declared in that rayon for one month.

2. The Azerbaijani Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of National Security will be assigned the task of imposing the state of emergency regime. The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense will be instructed to provide the manpower and the other means to impose the state of emergency.

3. Regulations will be put into effect in connection with travel during the state of emergency regime. The free movement of transportation vehicles, which do not acquire permits, will be restricted in that rayon; measures taken to maintain the security of establishments that provide for social order and economic activity will be strengthened; meetings, rallies, marches, demonstrations, and arrangements for [words indistinct] will be banned; a curfew will be imposed from 2200 to 0500; identity certificates will be checked in places where citizens congregate; citizens and their property, including their vehicles, will be searched when information is received that someone is carrying arms; joint patrols will be organized by the military employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of National Security, and Ministry of Defense; illegal arms will be confiscated; special rules will be put into effect for the distribution of provisions and other essential commodities; and capable individuals will be mobilized to help officials maintain the state of emergency when necessary.

4. The minister of internal affairs, minister of national security, and minister of defense will be instructed to establish a joint operations headquarters in Kazakhskiy Rayon. The minister of internal affairs will appoint the rayon's commandant. The commandant will be held responsible for implementing the measures included in this decree and in the republic's law on the imposition of a state of emergency.

5. The Azerbaijan National Assembly will be asked to approve this decree and inform the UN secretary general on why this measure was necessary.

6. This decree will be put into effect as of 0000 on 27 January 1993.

[Signed] Abulfaz Elchibey, president of Azerbaijan. Baku City, 26 January 1993.

Emergency Declared in Kubatlinskiy

LD2701140993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] As of today, by decree of President Elchibey, a state of emergency has been introduced in Kubatlinskiy and Kazakhskiy Rayons in Azerbaijan. A partial mobilization has been announced in Lachinskiy Rayon. The Defense Ministry has been instructed to organize a call up in the shortest possible time.

Government Coalition With Former Leaders Proposed

NC2601184293 Baku TURAN in English 1344 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 26 Jan (TURAN)—The chairman of the Independent Azerbaijani Party academician Nizami Suleymanov declared for creation of the coalition government with the participation of the former leaders of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev, Abdurakhman Vezirov, and Ayaz Mutalibov.

The academician considers that the way out of economical and political crisis of Azerbaijan is possible only in conditions of consolidation.

But Suleymanov's statement can be classified as desirable rather than the possible one because all of these former communist leaders as ever do not miss the opportunity to hurt each other.

National Assembly Approves Denationalization Plan

NC2601184993 Baku TURAN in English 1344 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 26 Jan (TURAN)—Today the Milli Mejlis confirmed the programme of denationalization of the Azeri economy. The programme is planned for 2 years and provides the process of transmission of the considerable part of state sector of economy to private persons.

According to the accepted programme, antimonopolistic committee of the country will be one of the bodies, which will render a direct assistance in realization of more interesting ideas of private business. The accepted document stipulates the participation of foreign citizens in demonopolization of economy of the country.

There are 10,000 proprietors of private firms and enterprises in Azerbaijan at the present moment.

Georgia

Russian Border Troops To Remain Until End of 1994

OW2601182893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday in Tbilisi representatives of the command of Russian and Georgian border troops completed work on an accord determining the status of Russian border troops temporarily located on Georgian territory. General Panteleimon Georgadze, commander

of Georgia's border troops, said in an interview with Interfax that they had reached understandings on all the accord's points.

The document stipulates that Russian border troops continue guarding the border between Georgia and Turkey for another two years and that Russia help Georgia establish its own border troops. It was proposed that Russia give Georgian border troops weapons and equipment, and that Russian military specialists train Georgian officers and troops.

According to Georgadze, the discussion of the "border" agreement will continue at negotiations in Tbilisi between Russian and Georgian delegations, to be headed by Russian Ambassador on Special Assignment Feliks Kovalyev and Georgian First Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Ukleba.

Major-General Anatoliy Parakhin, deputy commander of Russian border troops and head of the Russian border troop delegation, expressed in an interview with Interfax his satisfaction with the negotiations with the Georgian representatives. He said that the Georgian border troops should be prepared, with the assistance of Russian military personnel, by 1994.

Russian Delegates 'Satisfied' With Tbilisi Talks

OW2501190493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's chief delegate to the negotiations with Georgia, special envoy Feliks Kovalev, believes that the third round of bilateral talks, which began in Tbilisi on Monday [25 January] is very constructive. He said in an interview he was satisfied with the fact that the Georgian leaders, Eduard Shevardnadze in particular, had promised to thoroughly investigate the tragic incident at one of the Russian border guard garrisons in Georgia and to find and punish those responsible.

On January 22 unidentified gunmen attacked the garrison, opening fire with submachine-guns. Two border guards were killed. The incident delayed the negotiations by two days.

Kovalev said the Russian delegates welcomed Georgia's readiness to discuss measures to settle the conflict in Abkhazia. The diplomat believes this will create additional opportunities to translate into life the drafts both delegations are working on now.

Abkhazia's Ardzinba Demands Release of Detained Passengers

LD2601175493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 26 TASS—Abkhazian Parliamentary Chairman Vladislav Ardzinba called on Georgia to immediately release the passengers and the crew of the Russian aid helicopter which made an emergency landing in a mountainous region of Abkhazia on January 18.

The helicopter en route to Tkvarchel made an emergency landing after Georgian militants fired on it, damaging the engine.

Ardzinba said the helicopter, which was also carrying Abkhazian Vice-Prime Minister Zurab Labakhua and television reporters, was delivering food to Tkvarchel and was not engaged in any combat activities.

The Georgian militants detained two helicopters which flew into Abkhazia from the neighbouring Krasnodar region of Russia on January 18 and 19. The helicopters were detained because they violated the Georgian airspace, did not have identification marks of the Red Cross Society and did not inform the Georgian side about their flight, according to a statement released by the press group of the Information Service of the former KGB of the Republic of Abkhazia.

The statement said the commander of the first helicopter had a record that his helicopter had made 12 such flights between January 7 and 18. The press service did not rule out the possibility that helicopter was carrying military cargoes.

The statement said Labakhua was detained because he was carrying reports concerning Abkhazian combat operations against Georgian forces in the Ochamchira district. On Tuesday, he was transported to Tbilisi for further investigation.

The crew and the passenger of the second helicopter were not arrested and are staying now in a Russian military hospital in Sukhumi, while the Abkhazians from the first helicopter may be exchanged for Georgian hostages being held by Abkhazia on Wednesday. All of them are in good health, the statement said.

Tkvarcheli Inhabitants Decline Russian Humanitarian Aid

OW2601154993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1524 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The inhabitants of the town of Tkvarcheli staged a spontaneous meeting at the local air field rejecting the Russian humanitarian aid which had been delivered from Sochi on board three MI-8 helicopters. The helicopters had delivered to the Georgian beleaguered town food and medical supplies.

Deputy chairman of the Abkhazian parliament, Socrates Dzhindzhilia, told Interfax correspondent that the residents of Tkvarcheli also refused to evacuate from the town any of the people suffering from starvation and in need of medical aid.

In the words of the parliamentarian, the participants of the meeting said they would accept the aid and evacuate

the refugees only after the Georgian authorities in Sukhumi release the passengers and crews of the two Russian helicopters who were taken hostage on January 18 and 19 when they had to perform emergency landings on the territories controlled by the Georgian troops. Among the persons kept hostage by the Georgian side is, in particular, deputy chairman of the Abkhazian government in Gudauta Zurab Labakhua.

The Russian helicopters were forced to take off and leave Tkvarcheli without unloading their cargoes.

Abkhaz Leader Apologizes for Aid Mission Interruption

LD2701025893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia, has officially apologized to all participants in the foiled aid mission for the residents of Tkvarcheli, organized by representatives of Russia, the UN, and Georgia. He assured them that he would do everything possible to resume this humanitarian mission carried out by Russia by request of the UN. Late on 26 January an urgent meeting was held in Sochi in connection with the refusal of Tkvarcheli people to accept aid. The Abkhazian leaders are going to fly to Tkvarcheli immediately to clarify the situation and to take the necessary measures, ensuring that aid is delivered and that the people who are ill or elderly are evacuated from the town, together with women and children.

First Round of South Ossetia Talks Viewed Positively

LD2601162893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 26 TASS—The first round of Georgian-Ossetian talks held in Tskhinvali has resulted in the establishment of three mixed inter-governmental commissions: On assistance to refugees, human rights protection and finance and economy.

Georgian Deputy Prime Minister Avtandil Margiani, who heads the Georgian delegation, told ITAR-TASS today that the Ossetian side was represented by South Ossetian Supreme Soviet Chairman Torez Kulumbekov. Both delegations comprised representatives of several ministries and agencies which should carry out re-building work in South Ossetia. Margiani noted that a detailed resolution to provide all-round aid to South Ossetia in rehabilitating the national economy was adopted at the enlarged meeting of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers presidium earlier. Specifically, the Georgian Government sets aside 500 million roubles for work to re-build the economy in this area.

It is an essential fact that at Monday's talks the Ossetian side expressed interest and readiness to get involved in this system of rehabilitation measures, Margiani emphasised.

Margiani evaluated positively the results of the first round of talks, describing the dialogue held in Tskhinvalii as constructive and useful.

The second round of talks is scheduled to be held in Tskhinvali on Thursday, January 28. Margiani specially noted that the Georgian-Ossetian negotiating process is limited only to issues of South Ossetia's social and economic revival and does not cover political aspects.

Unification With North Sought

OW2601183193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1807 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Russia's state border, which divides South and North Ossetia, is inacceptable in any form," declared Torez Kulumbekov, the Chairman of the South Ossetian parliament; South Ossetia is officially on Georgian territory. In his interview with Interfax on Tuesday, he reported that any attempts to divide South and North Ossetia testify to the fact that "politicians are trying to use the Ossetian people as tokens to achieve their goals."

Kulumbekov believes that it is necessary to solve the issue concerning unification of North and South Ossetia as soon as possible because, as he says, "this is the only way to save the Ossetian people."

Kulumbekov recognized the contradictions in the republic's leadership on political and economic issues. He accused Oleg Teziev, the Prime Minister of South Ossetia, of an attempt to concentrate power in his hands; however, he underlined, that these contradictions do not testify to the presence of serious opposition to the existing political course in the South Ossetian leadership.

Friendship, Cooperation Treaty With Iran Published

AU2701091693 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 21 Jan 93 p 1, 2

["A Declaration in the Name of the Almighty on the Principles of Friendly Cooperation Between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran" signed in Tehran on 20 January]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state-chairman of Parliament, heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 19-20 January 1993, which corresponds to 29-30 Dei 1371 Hijrah.

During the visit, His Excellency Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state-chairman of Parliament, visited His Excellency Batoni Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Georgia, and conducted negotiations with him. During these negotiations, which were held in an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding, the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which are to be called henceforth the sides and, on the basis of the principles of friendship and cooperation, are laying the foundation for long-term relations in the various spheres of politics, the economy, commerce, industry, and science and culture and, with this aim, specifying the rules governing relations between the sides, reached agreement on the following principles:

Article I

The sides will develop relations as two friendly and equal countries. The sides will act on the basis of the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both countries, nonintervention in each other's internal affairs, the non-use of force or the threat of force, the resolution of contentious issues only by peaceful means, and the protection of human rights and basic freedoms according to international norms.

Article II

Attaching great importance to the development of multilateral relations and dialogue at the highest level, the sides emphasize the necessity of continuing this dialogue in the future.

Article III

The sides have agreed that they will cooperate closely in international forums and organizations and will employ their own efforts to guarantee security and establish peace in the region and in the world.

Article IV

Taking into account the aim of each side to establish long-term and friendly relations with the independent states that formed part of the former Soviet Union, the sides, through joint efforts, will cooperate in order to achieve stability and economic development in this region of the world.

Article V

The sides have agreed that the foreign ministers of both countries will meet regularly, no less than once a year, in order to conduct negotiations in Tbilisi and Tehran.

Article VI

Taking into account the very great importance of the Caucasus, in the matter of safeguarding security in the region, the sides have agreed to systematically hold bilateral consultations in connection with this question. Both sides have emphasized the necessity of resolving existing disagreements between countries in the region by peaceful means.

Article VII

The sides have agreed to halt such actions on their own territories that threaten their territorial integrity and state structure.

Article VIII

In order to expand and develop commercial and economic relations between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the sides consider it necessary to create a Georgian-Iranian joint commercial and economic commission. On the basis of the agreement that has been reached, the responsible ministers will meet regularly, no less than once a year, in Tbilisi and Tehran and will discuss questions concerning the progress and efficiency of the commission.

Article IX

The sides will implement the commercial and economic agreement on the basis of legislation existing in the countries and international obligations. Separate treaties and agreements will be drawn up in respect of this cooperation.

Article X

Emphasizing the importance of the agreements reached between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the necessity of cooperation in such spheres as petrol and gas, economy and trade, transport, industry, banking, agriculture, and other areas of interest to both sides, the sides have agreed to take effective steps in order that the corresponding treaties may be signed.

Article XI

The will of the sides determines the creation, through close and constructive cooperation, of prerequisites for connecting the Black Sea, Caspian Sea, and Persian Gulf and the possibility of using this transit route by both sides.

Article XII

Having in mind a long-term project for the supply of Iranian natural gas to Europe, the Georgian side expresses its readiness to lay a gas pipeline on its territory. The sides believe that such cooperation will contribute to economic growth in the region and also the development of bilateral relations.

Article XIII

The sides express the view that it is necessary to hold systematic consultations on the exchange of information and sharing of experience in the spheres of the economy and science and technology and that the sides' potential and possibilities in these areas should be realized to the full. Taking this into account, the sides will facilitate to

the maximum business potential in their countries and will ensure the corresponding living and working conditions for businessmen and specialists involved in such joint projects.

Article XIV

The sides will assist one another in the spheres of culture, science, education, health protection and sanitation, literature, the press, radio and television, cinema, the arts, tourism, and sport and in the implementation of social measures. In this way, the sides will promote the establishment of direct links between universities, scientific, cultural, and religious centers, museums, libraries, and also those institutions whose activities are connected with science, culture, and the arts.

The sides will promote free and wide-scale cooperation between the information organs of both countries in respect of information exchange and also publishing and printing.

The sides will promote the teaching of Persian in Georgia and Georgian in Iran.

Article XV

The sides will promote the establishment of contacts between the peoples of both countries and the expansion of cooperation between social, religious, youth, and women's organizations and funds. In this respect, the sides are trying to simplify the procedure for issuing visas for the citizens of both countries who are travelling as tourists and on commercial, medical, or cultural grounds.

Article XVI

The sides will cooperate in the sphere of ecology in order to share experiences, utilize natural resources and corresponding technologies, and protect and restore the environment. The sides will, within the bounds of possibility, render maximum assistance to each other in order to eradicate the consequences of natural disasters and will fulfill their own obligations in the matter of elaborating an international strategy for environmental protection.

Article XVII

The sides will make the necessary efforts in order to stimulate relations between their Parliaments.

Article XVIII

The sides point out that their views coincide on questions concerning the acceleration of the process of disarmament and the institution of controls on weapons of mass destruction and their reduction and ultimate elimination.

Article XIX

Both sides express the wish that the Persian Gulf and the Black Sea be declared a zone of peace and one free of nuclear and chemical weapons. The sides call upon the neighboring states to participate in the matter of securing peace in these regions.

Article XX

The sides will cooperate and share experiences in the struggle against crime, drug smuggling, air and sea piracy, and the smuggling of cultural artefacts and will assist one another in the spheres of criminal and civil law.

Article XXI

The sides will consistently struggle against any manifestation of racism or racial discrimination.

Article XXII

This declaration comes into force on the day it is exchanged. It is valid for 10 years. Once this period has expired, the date of the relevant declaration is extended automatically for five years. If either side does not wish to prolong the date of the relevant declaration or wants to make an addition to or abolish any article, it is to notify the other side in writing six months prior to the expiration date through diplomatic channels.

This declaration is signed in the city of Tehran on 20 January 1993, correspondingly on 30 Dei 1371 Hijrat, in two copies, one in Georgian and one in Persian, each one having, at the same time, equal force in law.

On behalf of the Republic of Georgia
E.Shevardnadze
On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Hashemi-Rafsanjani

Estonia

President, Foreign Minister Begin Visit to France

OW2501191993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri and Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste on Monday [25 January] commenced their official visit to France at the invitation of French President Francois Mitterand.

The Estonian Foreign Ministry's press bureau has said that a mutual understanding, collaboration and friendship agreement would be signed between France and Estonia on Tuesday. Talks would take place between the presidents and foreign ministers of both countries.

The delegation returns to Tallinn during the evening of January 28.

Signs Friendship Agreement

OW2601203193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2007 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri and French President Fraincois Mitterand met in the Elysee Palace in Paris to sign an agreement of mutual understanding, cooperation and friendship between the two states.

Baltfax was informed at the Estonian President's press bureau that the agreement is stating the France's preparedness to promote strengthening of ties between Estonia and the European Community and support Estonia's aspiration to join the European Council.

Proceeding from the need to insure European security, the parties are stating their intention to cooperate in the area of the national defense.

The agreement also reflects some of the aspects of the countries' economic cooperation in terms of investments and their business activities.

The agreement envisages the countries' contribution to the contacts between Estonian and French parliamentarians, representatives of social organizations, high-school and university students.

One of the articles of the agreement is dedicated to the [item incomplete as received]

Minister Says West Should Help Republic Defend Itself

OW2601125093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1154 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Western states relate positively to the current Estonian Government and its activities to make the republic capable of defeding itself. Estonian Defense Minister, Hain Rebas, came to this conclusion after a meeting on Monday [25 January] with the heads of defense departments of the Baltic countries with French Defense Minister, Pierre Joxe.

Speaking on Estonian television during the evening news program, Rebas said that specific evidence of this approach by the West was apparent in various aid given to the republic's defense forces. He reported that, any day now a, French vessel should arrive in Tallinn with military freight for Estonia: Uniforms, communications and transportation equipment. Similar transport equipment is expected to arrive from Germany in mid-February. Sweden and Finland are helping to train an officer corps.

The minister also remarked, that Western countries understand that Baltic leaders are concerned about the fact, that Russian troops are located on their territory. Rebas was in favor of closer cooperation among Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia regarding defense and said he was satisfied with the decision, adopted in Riga, to create a special joint commission which would take concrete steps in this direction. He was also in favor of the creation, within the Baltic Council, of a structure to handle defense integration issues. The minister said that he envisaged its functions to also include preparation of legislation, developing common defense concepts and organizing cooperation on a practical level.

Agreement Signed With Russia on Legal Aid

LD2601135093 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Exerpt] At 1400 Moscow time today Estonia's Justice Minister Kaido Kama and the Russian Federation's Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov signed a bilateral agreement on legal aid and legal relations in civilian, family, and criminal matters. The agreement had been initialled by working group leaders last summer, and now the Riigikogu [parliament] is to ratify the signed agreement. The agreement will come into force 30 days after letters of ratification are exchanged and will be valid for five years. If neither side denounces the agreement the agreement will continue to be valid for another five years.

At a news conference after the agreement was signed Kaido Kama said that the agreement is a precondition for regulating the relations between the two countries at a new level. According to the agreement the citizens of one country have the same legal protection in respect of their personal and property rights on the territory of the other country as citizens of that country. This provision will also be extended to legal entities formed within either country's legislation.

The citizens of either country have the right to approach freely and unhampered the law courts, the procuracy,

and the notary public as well as other establishments under whose jurisdiction civil, family, and criminal matters belong in the other country. [passage omitted]

Russian Envoy Says Elections Not Democratic

WS2601130393 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1659 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From January 25 PAEVALEHT, p.1, HOMMIKULEHT, p.3]

[Text] Monday, January 25—The High Commissioner to CSCE minority nations commission Max van der Stoel met the Russian Ambassador to Estonia Aleksandr Trofimov. The head of information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Sergey Yastrzhembski told the Friday's [22 January] news conference that Trofimov drew Stoel's attention to the fact that the rights of Russian inhabitants in Estonia are violated and that Estonian parliamentary elections were organised in a non-democratic way, therefore only Estonian representatives were elected.

According to Yastrzembski, Trofimov said that the rights of Russians are violated in the aspects of joining families, employment and mother-tongue education. He stressed that the new government has not kept its promises to have more regard for the interests of Russian community.

The Russian diplomat announced in Moscow on Friday that Max van der Stoel noted that as 30,000 Russians have already resettled from Estonia, the situation of aliens must be bad. The CSCE representative was said to have stressed that the Estonia powers should find a possibility to give citizenship according to naturalisation and liberalise language requirements for granting citizenship.

The "Democratic Russia" movement in Moscow also spread a statement on Friday, saying that the Russian inhabitants are being driven away from Estonia and Latvia through discrimination. The Baltic politicians and MPs are being called to defend the rights of non-Estonians.

CSCE Mission To Resolve Problems of Russian Population

OW2601144293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] CSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe] High Commissioner for National Minorities, Max van der Stoel, having visited the Baltic states, has reported that the CSCE will send a permanent mission to Estonia to help resolve the problems of the Russian-speaking population. The commissioner met with Russian Vice Premier and Chairman of the State Committee on Ethnic Policy, Sergey Shakhray, on Tuesday in the Kremlin.

According to van der Stoel, the withdrawal of Russian forces from the Baltic states "would be made easier if the governments of these countries were to adopt resolutions on the problems of their Russian-speaking populations."

Shakhray recognized the existence of "psychological links" between the withdrawal of forces and the problems of the Russian- speaking population of the Baltic states, adding that the withdrawal of forces was tied to the housing of hundreds of thousands of people, which "poses a mass of problems." According to Shakhray, the countries of the CSCE could aid in solving the problem by using public opinion to influence legislation in the Baltic states and attract foreign capital to the region. Shakhray emphasized that, for its part, Russia is ready to establish commercial organizations and places of work in the Baltics.

Economics Minister Resigns, Cites Health Reasons

OW2601180893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1755 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Minister of the Economy, Ain Saarmann, has submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Mart Laar, citing his "serious disease" as the reason. This marked the first resignation in Estonia's new Cabinet since its inception less than a hundred days ago.

Some local observers maintain that his resignation could have some other reasons behind it and several other ministers will follow suit shortly.

On Tuesday, the Estonian State Assembly passed a resolution to relieve Jaak Kirikal of his duties as chairman of the republic's Supreme Court beginning January 2, 1992. [sentence as received]

Government Sets Up Commercial Bank, Issues Bonds

WS2601131893 Tallinn BNS BALTIC BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 2203 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Tallinn, 24 January (BNS)—The Estonian government will establish a commercial bank and issue bonds worth 300 mln kroons (about 1/6 of the national bank's currency and gold reserves). The move was supported by the national legislature.

The new bank will be set up with the Northern Estonian Joint Stock [NEJSB] and Union Baltic Banks [UBB] currently under moratorium. To this end, the government will buy out the NEJSB from the Bank of Estonia and the UBB - from its shareholders to be paid in the

so-called "Vneshekonombank certificates" authorizing to obtain funds frozen by the former USSR Vneshekonombank (yet the repayment of Estonian funds deposited in Moscow is said to be minute).

The Ministry of Finance was authorized to issue bonds totalling 300 mln kroons to ensure liquidity of the new bank to be repaid out of state budget within 10 years starting from January 1, 1998. The bonds have a face value of 100,000 kroons and will accrue 10 per cent in annual interest to be paid beginning 1994.

All transactions involving the bonds are subject to registration by the NEJSB or its successor.

In passing the decision, the government hopes to revive confidence in Estonia's national banking system.

Latvia

French Defense Minister Arrives on 2 Day Visit

LD2401200393 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe and his accompanying delegation arrived today in Latvia. The French defense minister will stay in Latvia for two days. Tomorrow, Pierre Joxe will visit the Supreme Council and will meet Minister of State Janis Dinevics and Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs. At the conference hall of the Latvija hotel, a conference devoted to Baltic security questions will take place. Pierre Joxe will deliver a report there on the concept of French defense. Also, the defense ministers of Lithuania and Estonia will arrive in Riga in order to meet the French defense minister. (?After that), the French defense minister will have an opportunity of acquainting himself with Riga, of visiting the Museum of History, and St. Peter's Church.

Questions Russian Army Presence

LD2501194793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] The question of the prolonged presence of the Russian Army in Latvia was the principal one raised by French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe at a reception by Minister of State Janis Dinevics. The question was asked in the interests of European security, because the presence of the Russian Army in the Baltic states is a destabilizing factor. The French defense minister expressed astonishment and concern that the entire territory of the state was not accessible to the Latvian Government, that is, that the Russian army facilities were closed. Pierre Joxe also took an interest in coordination among the Baltic states in the talks with Russia.

Discusses Issues With Baltic Ministers

LD2601194093 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1830 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] A news conference was held at the Latvian Ministry of Defense today on the results of the visit by the delegation of the French Ministry of Defense, and also on the meeting of the ministers of defense of France, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. As Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis announced, the visit by French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe testifies to the will of a great state to involve even small countries in the collective security system of Europe.

The main theme in the talks between the ministers of defense of France and the Baltic countries was the unified principles of leadership in the armed forces. The Baltic countries' ministers of defense acquainted themselves with France's concepts on defense. There was also discussion on France's possibilities of assisting the Baltic countries in the formation of national defense forces. France is prepared to promote the solution of Baltic defense problems at an international level, and also to assist in providing the necessary equipment and training officers from the Baltic countries.

Lithuanian Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius noted that no less important was the meeting held by the defense ministers of the Baltic countries. This meeting resolved to meet in February to sign several cooperation agreements, and to hold a conference in March on strategic issues for the Baltic countries. In May, joint training of soldiers is planned on Latvian territory.

Parliamentary Factions Meet To Discuss Talks With Russia

LD2601125393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1155 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On January 25, the largest factions of the Latvian Parliament—the Satversme and the Popular Front of Latvia, gathered for sessions.

Chairman of the Satversme faction, Janis Vaivads, stated that the Latvian-Russian talks ceased to be the talks between two independent states. The latest round showed that Russia neither takes into account Latvia's independent status, nor views the presence of Russian troops in its territory as something contravening international law.

He proposed informing international organizations, above all the European Community and the UN, of the changes in the nature of the talks, and setting up a group of experts who will prepare talks between the Russian and Latvian delegations, make changes in the membership of the Latvian delegation and accelerate the shaping of a political position during the talks.

The Popular Front of Latvia proposed that the issue of passing a vote of no-confidence on State Minister Janis Dineviocs, should be removed from the agenda of the parliament's January 27 session. Earlier, the deputies of the former faction, Equality, suggested that this problem be included in the agenda.

Tab for Russian Troops' Stay Equals Latvian Gas Debt

PM2701095193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jan 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Ranevskiy report under the "From Our Information Office" rubric: "Latvia Has Presented Russia With a Bill for 9 Million Rubles"]

[Text] Riga—This is how much Riga estimates that the Russian military units' sojourn on Republic of Latvia territory has cost.

The figure includes expenses for education, health care, and "other services." Moreover, to this sum expressed in billions, the bureau for monitoring the withdrawal of Russian troops is preparing to add a few more millions as compensation for "contamination of the environment." It is curious that the total sum equals the Republic of Latvia's debt to Russia for gas deliveries.

Changes in Latvian Cabinet Reported

PM2701120593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Irina Litvinova: "Significant Changes in Latvian Government"]

[Text] Riga—Resignations and appointments in Ivars Godmanis' cabinet, so far the most stable of the Baltic states' governments, are the focus of public attention.

A week ago a "key" minister—the minister of finances—tendered his resignation. Elmars Silins is known as an experienced professional. His unexpected decision is shrouded in secrecy and the minister refuses to give interviews but news agencies have reported that Silins gives as the reason for his resignation "the diverse approach of members of the government toward questions which should be viewed as the province of the Ministry of Finances."

Justice Minister Viktors Skudra slammed the door far more loudly. He told a correspondent of the newspaper DIENA that his tendering of resignation was caused by several factors. The minister does not like the state of legal power. V. Skudra said that in 1990 he agreed to become minister of justice because at the time the majority of candidate deputies were calling for the creation of a rule-of-law state. Reality turned out to be different: In the keen polemics between legislators and executives on the division of power, legal power was reduced to a lower level than during socialism. The minister cites the example of ensuring there are guards: The Supreme Council and the government have guards who are trained and armed but funds are not to be found for even minimal safety for judges. V. Skudra described the pressure on judges brought to bear by the deputies of the Supreme Council and by lower-ranking people's elected representatives: They all demand that cases be examined in favor of a particular side.

The staffing of Godmanis' cabinet is also connected with a substantial ministerial portfolio: The vacancy of the minister of economic reforms, empty for several months, has finally been filled. That post has been taken by the successful entrepreneur and leader of the Riga stock exchange Ayvars Kreytus [name as transliterated].

Navy Monitoring Shipping Movements in Riga Harbor

LD2601172993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] For several days now, representatives of the Latvian naval forces have been joining in the work of monitoring shipping movements in Riga harbor. Yet the issue of controlling the sea border is not yet resolved. As a LETA correspondent was told by the commander of the naval forces, Gaidis Zeibots, the naval forces of the Latvian Ministry of Defense have proposed convening a conference of the Latvian Naval Forces, the leaders of the border guards and customs, and captains of Latvian shipping harbors, with participation by government representatives. It is necessary to convene this conference in the near future to decide on how to control the sea border. The naval forces' proposal has the support of the director of the Latvian Customs Department, Imants Geidans.

Lithuania

Landsbergis on Latvian-Russian Army Negotiations

WS2601132693 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1402 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 171]

[Text] 25 January 1993—Speaking at a meeting with Latvian journalists, the former Chairman of the Supreme Council of Lithuania Vytautas Landsbergis said that, if Russia wants to become a full member of the European Council, it will have to follow the democratic demands of this organization. Landsbergis visited Latvia together with a delegation of the European Council parliamentarians.

He thinks that the Baltic States may hope for progress in the negotiations with Russia with the pullout of the Russian army. According to Landsbergis, Russia is waiting for a certain gap in the position of the Baltic States which may appear after the October elections in Lithuania where the post-communist forces gained victory. He appreciated the firm position of Latvia dealing with the pullout of the Russian army. Vytautas Landsbergis expressed his hope that

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia will restore their cooperation and prepare uniform principles on future relations with their eastern neighbour.

'Scandal' Involving Russian Troops Reported

LD2601135193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 26 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius January 26 TASS—A scandal has broken out in Lithuania before upcoming presidential election after local mass media claimed that an additional contingent of 2,000 Russian soldiers arrived to the Baltic state.

Lithuania allowed Russia to send to the republic 207 unarmed soldiers who will drive heavy trucks with Russian Army property and military hardware out of the republic, according to Stasis Knesis, Lithuanian representative monitoring Russian pullout.

He told a briefing on Tuesday [26 January] that media reports about 2,000 soldiers do not correspond to reality. The news about 2,000 Russians was reported by "LETUVOS AIDAS" newspaper supporting the "Sajudis" movement which is in opposition to the Democratic Labour Party which won the latest parliamentary elections.

The leader of the opposition, Vytautas Landsbergis, told the newspaper that Russia was testing Lithuanian labour democrats. "The new authorities of Lithuania are being checked: Whether they will protest such an arbitrariness or connive", the newspaper quoted him as saying.

"Russian soldiers are arriving to speed up the packing of military property, and the opposition leader rings the bell of danger", the "LETUVOS RITAS" newspaper commented.

According to Knesis the arrival of Russian soldiers is envisaged by a corresponding agreement between the two states signed in Moscow on September 8. He added that all the information had been submitted to the parliament, government and the Foreign Ministry.

The Russian ambassador in Lithuania, Nikolay Obertyshev was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to clarify the news. There are 15,000 Russian servicemen staying in Lithuania yet, Knesis quoted him as saying.

Russian Envoy Summoned to Ministry of Foreign Affairs

OW2601203293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2007 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [26 January], the Russian Ambassador to Lithuania, Nikolay Obertyshev, was summoned to the Lithuanian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] by deputy foreign minister Virginius Papirtis.

The Press and Information Department of the Lithuanian MFA, the Russian Ambassador in Lithuanian was asked the following questions: "the fact of bringing to Lithuania of extra contingents of the Russian Army; the progress of the Russian-Lithuanian state talks; return to Lithuania of the ambassadorial buildings of the Lithuanian Republic in Rome and Paris which are currently occupied by respective organizations of the Russian Federation."

Earlier, Lithuania accused Russia of unlawfully bringing to Lithuania of 722 Russian servicemen, while Lithuania agreed for 207 only. According to the data available at the Lithuanian foreign ministry, 929 Russian servicemen disembarked from the planes that landed on the airfield in Kedainiai.

The Russian military command substantiated the need for this extra contingent by the need to prepare for departure to Russia of the Russian military equipment.

Acting President Calls on Israel for Cooperation

OW2601202993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2007 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas has called on Israel to cooperate with Lithuania in order not to "rehabilitate the persons responsible for the genocide against the Jewish population together with the victims of Stalinism." In his letter to the Israeli Knesset chairman , Shalah Weis, Mr Brazauskas says that Lithuania has set a special delegation to conduct the talks, including Deputy Chairman of the republic's Supreme Court, the Attorney General, representatives of the Seimas Foreign Affairs Committee, the President's Council for Legal Affairs.

Mr Brazauskas is inviting a delegation of the Israeli parliament to visit Lithuania.

Biography of Presidential Candidate Stasys Lozoraitis

WS2601132493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1402 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 171]

[Text] 25 January 1993—Stasys Lozoraitis was born in Berlin in the family of a Lithuanian diplomat on 2 August 1924. 1935-1939 he attended the M. Peckauskaite secondary school in Kaunas. In 1943 he finished secondary school in Rome and started working at the Lithuanian Embassy to the Holy Seat in the Vatican, in 1947 becoming an attache and First Secretary in 1952. In the period of 1944-1948 Stasys Lozoraitis studied Law at the University of Rome. He took part at various international conferences and in 1950 became a member of the executive board of the International Exiled Intellectuals' Union. He wrote and contributed to the Lithuanian publications abroad such as "Santarve" and the weekly "Europe's Lithuanian", as well as to the Italian press. In 1946-1948 he worked in the editorial board of

"The Lithuanian's Voice". On 15 June, 1970 he undertook the duties of Lithuania's Ambassador to the Holy Seat in the Vatican. Since 1988 he started helping the Lithuanian Ambassador in Washington and following the latter's retirement, Stasys Lozoraitis became the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Lithuania to the United States of America.

Biography of Brazauskas

WS2601132293 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1401 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 171]

[Text] 25 January 1993—Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas was born in the town of Rokiskis, on 22 September 1932 in the family of employees. He is Lithuanian. In 1951, on finishing Kaisiadorys secondary school, he entered the Kaunas Polytechnic Institute and graduated from it in 1956 acquiring the speciality of hydrotechnical equipments engineer. Subsequently he defended a scientific dissertation for the degree of Candidate of Economics.

From 1956 to 1958 he worked as chief engineer in various construction companies and from 1958 to 1962—as head of the Board of the Power Construction Trust and the construction manager at the Kaunas Ferro-Concrete Structures Factory. In 1962-1965 he was Head of the board of the Building Material Industry and 1965-1966 the Lithuanian SSR Minister of the Building Materials Industry. 1966- 1977 Algirdas Brazauskas worked as Vice Chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Planning Committee and 1977-1988 as Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee.

At December Constituent Assembly of the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party [DLP] Algirdas Brazauskas was elected the DLP Chairman and since then headed the DLP faction at the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania.

On 25 October 1992 Algirdas Brazauskas was elected member of the Seimas and at its first sitting by the majority of vote he was elected Chairman of the Parliament thus, according to the Constitution, also becoming Acting President of the Republic of Lithuania until President is elected in the 14 February general elections.

Algirdas Brazauskas is married, his wife Julia is a doctor. Their twin daughters are already married and have their own families. Algirdas and Julia Brazauskas have five grandchildren.

Union of Poles Backs Brazausakas for President

LD2701115993 Warsaw PAP in English 1113 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Vilnius, Jan. 27—The Union of Poles in Lithuania (ZPL), which represents the interests of Lithuania's Polish minority, on Wednesday [27 January] officially backed former Communist Algirdas Brazauskas as a candidate for the Presidency of the newly-independent Baltic republic in the forthcoming elections.

Brazauskas, whose post-Communist Lithuanian Democratic Party of Labour came to power towards the end of 1992 when it inflicted a crushing electoral defeat on the "Sajudis" independence movement, is currently exercising the functions of acting president. In its statement, the main board of the ZPL praised Brazauskas for the "honourable and responsible manner" in which he has fulfilled this role.

The presidential elections are scheduled for February 14.

Parliament Adopts Decree on Presidential Duties

OW2601182093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1755 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Decree on the President adopted at the plenary session of the Lithuanian parliament on Tuesday [26 January] by the overwhelming majority, states that the President of the Lithuanian Republic will start to fulfil his duties on the fifth day after the results of the elections are made public.

The new decree states that the person elected to the presidency "should suspend his activity in political parties and political organizations until the next campaign to elect the republic's president."

One of the decree's articles cites that "the day after inauguration, the government of the Lithuanian Republic returns his authorities to him," which the prime minister is presently responsible for during the campaign period.

The president's wage is fixed at 25 times minimum subsistence levels. He has been granted a residence in Vilnius and a summer residence, a special purpose aircraft, two cars and a guard.

The person who occupies this post may keep the title of president throughout his lifetime. After he goes out of office, the President shall receive a monthly pension equal to 50% his former salary, he will have a place to live with help, a guard and transport means.

The same day, parliament approved a bill on the constitutional court in its first wording.

The evening plenary session of parliament proceeded with the discussion of the issue concerning confidence in Vilius Baldisis, chairman of the State Bank.

Over 3,000 State-Run Enterprises Privatized

WS2601131293 Tallinn BNS BALTIC BUSINESS WEEKLY in English 2201 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Vilnius, 24 January (BNS)—Since the privatization start-up of September 1, 1991, a total 3,042 state-run objects worth 18 bln coupons were sold in Lithuania as of early 1993, which accounts for 56 per cent of overall objects listed for privatization (34 per cent in terms of price).

The sale dealt with 666 industrial objects, as well as 59 transport, 332 building, 1,097 retail trade, 136 municipal service and 482 household service entities and 270 other facilities.

1,180 major enterprises (with a statutory capital of no less than 3 mln coupons) were privatized. In Lithuania, such enterprises are privatized via stock sales with the government keeping tabs on approximately 10 per cent of the shares, while small size enterprises are bought out via auctions.

The privatization in the country was implemented mainly through investment checks issued for the Lithuanian residents and acquisition of enterprises for hard currency was started as early as August 1992 with no considerable demand observed so far.